

Fahd insists on Iraqi pullout

RIYADH (AP) — King Fahd stressed Monday that any peace effort will be futile if it does not include a restoration of Kuwait's government and an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the border with Saudi Arabia. The monarch told the weekly meeting of the cabinet that the kingdom is determined to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 678, which authorised the use of force to expel Iraq from Kuwait. He said the terms of the resolution will not be met until Iraq withdraws its troops from Kuwait and the border with Saudi Arabia and until the toppled government of the emirate is restored. "Any peace attempts that do not achieve these clear and declared objectives will be futile," he said. King Fahd's statements were distributed by Information Minister Ali Al Shuaer and carried by the official Saudi Press Agency. During the cabinet meeting, the king also briefed the ministers on his talks with U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

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Clark: U.S. commits war crimes

NEW YORK (R) — Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark accused the United States Monday of committing war crimes in Iraq by causing extensive civilian casualties and damage. "The damage that we saw was staggering in its extent," he told a news conference on his return from a week-long visit to Iraq. Mr. Clark said the head of the Iraqi Red Crescent, Dr. Ibrahim Al Noori, estimated that between 6,000 and 7,000 civilians had died so far in the allied bombing. "This is an attack on the people of Iraq, the economy of Iraq," Mr. Clark said. He was giving an account of what he said he saw while driving more than 3,200 km through the country, including visits to Baghdad and Basra, the two biggest cities. "These are violations of the Geneva conventions, they are violations of the Geneva conventions, they are violations of Nuremberg, they are war crimes," he said. Mr. Clark, who served as attorney general under the late President Lyndon Johnson but later strongly opposed the Vietnam war, said he went to Iraq because he feared the large number of air sorties being carried out must have resulted in extensive civilian casualties.

Iraq says it will never accept ceasefire

Baghdad calls on all Arabs to join battle

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID Monday it would never accept a ceasefire in the Gulf war and urged Arabs to revolt against their rulers and join the battle against U.S.-led allied forces.

"Iraq... will never cease firing before total victory is achieved," Baghdad Radio said.

President Saddam Hussein rallied Iraqis behind the war in a headline speech late Sunday that made no mention of Iranian and other peace proposals and Soviet efforts to promote a political settlement.

Baghdad Radio and newspapers said in their commentaries that Kuwait, invaded by Iraqi troops on Aug. 2, would remain part of Iraq forever.

Baghdad Radio, in its commentary addressed to all Arabs said: "O Arabs, this is your Iraq... a strong and confident Iraq."

It urged them to rise up against their leaders, some of whom have contributed troops to the U.S.-led multinational force trying to oust Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

"O Arabs take to the streets of revolution... this is your historic

chance, this is the nation's historic chance to get rid of its treacherous and cowardly rulers," the radio added.

Iraq said Sunday its decision to fight was irrevocable and President Saddam urged his people to look forward to victory.

President Saddam also lavished praise on his people for their courage in withstanding more than three weeks of relentless allied bombing that has pummeled towns and strategic sites throughout the country.

"The resistance of our heroes to the warplanes and rockets of aggression and shame is the strongest indication to the steadfastness, faith and light in the hearts of the Iraqis..." he said (see page 2).

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's peace ideas appeared doomed.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi visited Tehran on Saturday to convey President Saddam's response to Mr. Rafsanjani's plan.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told CNN on Sunday President Saddam's response was "not on the same level as we had expected" but

declined to give details. He said Tehran would continue its peace efforts.

Baghdad Radio said President Saddam sent a letter Sunday to Rafsanjani on the 12th anniversary of Iran's Islamic revolution.

It quoted him as saying in the letter that he hoped relations between Iran and Iraq would improve "in a way to serve our two peoples and deepen our Islamic brotherhood."

"We call on God to unite the word and will of the Muslims on the path of justice and belief in the confrontation against the infidels," the radio quoted the letter as saying.

Iraq's newspapers said Monday the ground battle was near and vowed to avenge continued allied air strikes on its territory and residential areas.

"The day of the land and sea battle has neared and the rubbish of the earth (allied forces), their forts and fleets will not escape punishment," said Al Jumhuriya newspaper.

"The revenge prepared by Iraq will make the enemies swim in

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Photo by Yousef Al 'Aham

SUPPORT FOR 'AL HUSSEIN': University students stage a demonstration Monday in support of Iraq with a replica of the Iraqi 'Al Hussein' missile — a modified version of the Scud type (see page 3)

Bush and war chiefs study ground options

Combined agency dispatches

THE TIMETABLE for an allied ground assault against Iraqi forces provided the focus Monday for fateful talks between President George Bush and two top military advisers just back from the Gulf war front in Saudi Arabia.

"We're ready to go," a U.S. spokesman in the war zone told reporters as Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and General Colin Powell, chairman of the Pentagon Joint Chiefs of Staff, prepared to report to Mr. Bush on their weekend visit to the Gulf.

Mr. Cheney and Gen. Powell returned to Washington late Sunday after two days of talks with Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of Operation Desert Storm, and his staff on damage done to the Iraqis in over three weeks of relentless allied air attacks.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said at his daily news briefing, however, that Monday's meeting with Mr. Bush was not certain to be the one at which the long-anticipated decision on a ground war would be made.

"There's no advance indication... that there will be any decision taken today on when we might or might not start a ground offensive," Mr. Fitzwater said.

That has become the key question for all sides in the war pitting a 28-nation Western-Arab coalition against Iraq.

The allies have been pounding Iraq

and Kuwait from the air since Jan. 17.

In his comments to reporters who travelled with him to Saudi Arabia, Mr. Cheney suggested that while a ground assault against over half a million entrenched Iraqi troops in and near Kuwait was inevitable, it was not necessarily imminent.

"I am struck by the enormous size of the Iraqi military," he said at a news conference Sunday in the Saudi capital of Riyadh — a remark widely taken to mean several more weeks of bombing might be desirable to soften up Iraqi forces.

Britain's foreign secretary said Monday the goal of the anti-Iraqi coalition is not the removal of Saddam Hussein but that "it is becoming increasingly difficult" to imagine him playing a post-war role.

"Neither Italy nor Britain nor any of the allies in the coalition have wanted to expand the aims of the war to include the question of who should govern or who should not govern Iraq," Douglas Hurd told a news conference in Rome.

"That is a matter for the Iraqis," he said. "But I must say it is increasingly difficult to imagine a position in which the actual government of Iraq can play the kind of part in the post-war settlement which is clearly going to be needed."

Mr. Hurd spoke after talks with Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis, who also indicated that President Saddam's future is "uncertain."

"The objective of the coalition is not to change the Iraqi leadership" but to implement U.N. resolutions for the liberation of Kuwait, Mr. De Michelis said. "But the one who is

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King, Arafat and Ortega discuss peace prospects

Statesmen, political and religious leaders could meet here this week

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Final plans for convening a meeting of several statesmen and international political and religious leaders to formulate a strategy to end the Gulf war were the key theme for a meeting His Majesty King Hussein held Monday with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, informed sources said.

Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and Mr. Ortega, who now leads the opposition party in Managua, flew in earlier from Tunis. The King held a round of separate talks with Mr. Arafat before hosting a working dinner during which prospects for peace in the 25-day-old Gulf war were explored, sources close to the meeting said.

"The conference, which would group less than 10 personalities, could be held in Amman as early as Thursday," said an informed source. The source, who preferred anonymity, declined to identify the leaders expected to attend, but said that "there would be statesmen as well as international political and religious lead-

ers." Reporting Monday's talks, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King and Mr. Arafat discussed the latest developments in the region and the situation of the Palestinian people living in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The broader meeting, which included His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri in addition to Mr. Ortega and senior aides as well as senior PLO officials, discussed the Gulf war and "means to strengthen efforts for a ceasefire and resolution of the conflict," Petra said.

Mr. Arafat has been exerting efforts to defuse the crisis before the war broke out and for a ceasefire after the military hostilities began. But his efforts were seen as mostly set back by his open support for the Iraqi position.

Mr. Ortega, who lost presidential reelection in February last year, has been shuttling around Arab, Third World and European capitals since October in a bid to defuse the Gulf crisis through an initiative which he himself has described as enshrining the "Third World spirit." He visited Baghdad at least three times for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein; his last visit came three days before the war started on Jan. 17.

Details were sketchy of the initiative advanced by Mr. Ortega, but it is believed that it involves a call for an immediate ceasefire based on undertakings from Iraq that it would withdraw from Kuwait and from the allied forces that they would also leave the region.

"International legitimacy is the key word in the plan," said one of the sources. "It will not only seek to resolve the Gulf problem but will also increase the strength of the U.N. Security Council away from American domination."

Among the world leaders who have been contacted by Mr. Ortega in his shuttle diplomacy were former German Chancellor Willy Brandt, French President Francois Mitterrand, Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto met with Mr. Arafat in Tunis Sunday, Palestinian sources said.

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Heavy casualties reported as allies step up air war

Combined agency dispatches

ALLIED AIRCRAFT are intensifying their bombing campaign against Iraqi forces, U.S. spokesmen said and Iraq reported heavy civilian casualties in aerial assault.

Baghdad Radio vowed the country would never surrender and announced the government had ordered 17-year-old male students to report for military duty.

"Iraq will not ask for a ceasefire after one week or two weeks, and it will not cease its fire until total victory over the aggressors is achieved," the radio said.

"With every passing day, we become more certain of our victory," the radio said. "The resolve of the aggressors is weakening."

The radio, citing unidentified sources, said Monday that four Saudi pilots had defected with their warplanes to Jordan. It offered no further details. A senior Jordanian military official in Amman denied the report.

Also Monday, a top Soviet envoy, Yevgeny Primakov, arrived in Baghdad to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein about the latest Kremlin initiative to stop the war.

Religious Affairs Minister Abdullah Fadel said there had been thousands of civilian casualties in the allied bombardment. He also said the bombs destroyed several mosques and churches and 80 homes in the holy Shi'ite cities of Karbala, Samarra and Najaf.

It was the second time a senior government official had spoken of such high civilian losses. Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi said in Amman there were "thousands of civilian casualties" in the war. Previously the government had listed civilian casualties at about 650 dead and 750 wounded.

Mr. Fadel said because new reports were constantly arriving he could not be any more precise than to say thousands have been killed and wounded. "Our revenge for such savage

air raids will be severe," an Iraqi military communiqué said. "The Americans and their slaves will pay for them in pools of blood."

The latest military communiqué reported 57 more allied air raids late Sunday and early Monday, and said the targets were civilian areas.

In Baghdad, one of the targets was the Martyrs Bridge, partly damaged in an earlier raid and completely destroyed early Monday.

Three of the six bridges over the Tigris River in central Baghdad now have been destroyed.

Travellers arriving in Baghdad from the southern port city of Basra reported that intensive allied air strikes continued there. They said most of Basra's gas-line stations had been hit.

Civil defence officials in Basra Sunday showed reporters damaged homes, schools and neighbourhoods from the bombing

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Missile hits 'central Israel'

Combined agency dispatches

A MISSILE FIRED FROM western Iraq Monday struck a deserted site in central Israel, causing no damage or casualties, the army said.

Chief army spokesman Nachman Shai said the missile carried a conventional warhead.

Another army spokesman, who cannot be identified by name under military regulations, said there were no reports of casualties or damage.

Both refused to say exactly where the missile had struck. Brigadier General Shai told Israel Radio that "we have located one launching from western Iraq towards Israel."

He added: "As far as I can determine now it was a conventional warhead. Certainly we'd be acting otherwise if we knew differently."

It was the 12th attack on the Jewish state by Iraq since the Gulf war started on Jan. 17. Some 30 Scuds were fired in the previous attacks.

Shortly after Israeli Television announced the missile strike, Palestinian activists in the Deir Al Balah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip ran out onto the streets in violation of an army curfew and shouted "Allahu Akbar," Arab reports said.

Israeli soldiers opened fire to disperse the demonstrators, they said, and hospital officials said a

24-year-old Palestinian man was admitted with a serious bullet wound to the head.

The army could not immediately confirm the report.

In Israel's parliament, supporters of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir easily defeated three no confidence motions challenging the government's handling of the missile crisis and the army's three-week blanket curfew in the occupied territories.

The government got 60 votes in the 120-seat parliament. No more than six legislators voted against the government, and about 30 abstained.

In Monday's missile firing, reporters in Tel Aviv said they heard what sounded like U.S.-supplied anti-missile Patriots being fired, but Gen. Shai refused to say whether the defensive missiles were used.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens was discussing with President George Bush the civilian damage brought on his country by the missile attacks when air raid sirens went off again in Israel.

"It was really dramatic," Mr. Arens told reporters after his talks with Mr. Bush, Vice-President Dan Quayle, Secretary of State James Baker, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and other top U.S. policy-makers.

"During our meeting I received

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Missile intercepted over Riyadh

TWO PATRIOT missiles intercepted an Iraqi Scud missile fired at Riyadh Monday night. Debris fell to the ground, but no damage or injuries were immediately reported.

The attack came less than a day after U.S. pilots claimed the destruction of four mobile launchers in western and southern Iraq.

The incoming projectile broke apart as the Patriots intercepted it, and plummeted to the earth with a now-familiar trail of flames.

First reports said the debris landed more than 32 kilometres outside the Saudi capital.

The attack came about 2 and a half hours after a Scud was fired at Israel. The Israeli army said the missile hit a deserted site in "central Israel," with no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

In Riyadh, air-raid sirens sounded at 10:30 p.m. (1930 GMT). Minutes later, two Patriots flashed from their launchers and pursued the incoming missile across the night sky.

Iraq still has its best pilots

Combined agency dispatches

THE BEST PILOTS in the Iraqi air force seem to have stayed in Iraq while inferior ones flew some of the country's best combat planes out to neighbouring Iran, U.S. military sources said Monday.

This assessment was based on the high number of Iraqi planes that crashed on their way over and on the way they reacted when U.S. planes attacked them.

"There were a couple of incidences where we've shot these guys down; where they were going low and fast and they definitely had to know they'd been locked on and they didn't go into proper evasive tactics... very inexperienced pilots," one source said. "Locked on" means picked up by hostile radar.

The sources also discounted the threat of suicide attacks by

Iraqi pilots.

They also said some planes remaining in Iraq are being hidden in civilian areas, along roads and under natural cover, while others apparently are still being kept in the hardened concrete shelters that dot Iraq's many airfields.

"They're playing a shell game, putting some of them in shelters that have already been damaged," said one official.

No Iraqi planes are known to have fled into neighbouring Iran in the last few days, the officials said. They put the number of Iraqi planes in Iran at 147, including 121 combat aircraft and 26 transports.

That represents about one-fifth of the estimated 700 aircraft that Baghdad was believed to have at the war's outset.

When combined with 34 planes downed in aerial combat and

another 99 confirmed destroyed on the ground, the total number of planes — 320 — would mean more than half of Iraq's air force is out of commission.

The planes now in Iran are being dispersed around the country, and there is no evidence they are accompanied by maintenance crews, equipment or spare parts to keep them in flying condition, said one official.

Iran has said it is neutral in the Gulf war, and that the planes will be impounded until the war's end.

The "several hundred" planes remaining in Iraq also include some of the best, such as French-made F-1 Mirages, "but a lot of junk, too," said one official.

Of Iraq's hundreds of hardened aircraft shelters, at least 70 have been damaged or destroyed by specially hardened 2,000-pound bombs dropped by the allies.



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Presents sincere congratulations and best wishes to His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of the Prophetic Ascension.

May God grant Your Majesty and the Arab and Islamic nations further prosperity and success in the years to come.

Many stranded at Trebeil post without permits

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Around 2,500 expatriate workers, most of them Egyptian, are stranded on the Iraqi side of the border with Jordan, some of them for as long as 15 days, in the absence of special permits issued to them by the Ministry of Interior in Baghdad, relief officials and travellers said Monday.

"No-one knows how the problem could be resolved since the Iraqi officials at the border are insisting that everyone leaving the country should have a special permit regardless whether their passport bears a regular exit visa," said a Jordanian driver.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it was aware of the situation and is providing food and water to the stranded people.

"We have provided them with blankets and are sending them food and water on a daily basis in coordination with the Jordanian Red Crescent Society," said Philip Lizzilene, field coordinator of the ICRC in Amman.

According to Mr. Lizzilene, some of the expatriates, at the Trebeil border post about 75 kilometres across the no-man's-land from the Jordanian frontier at Al Ruweished, have been stranded since Jan. 27.

Jordanian drivers and travellers from Iraq arriving here said there was little possibility of those stranded going back to Baghdad to obtain a special permit.

"They do not have enough money to afford the expensive trip to Baghdad in view of the high cost of fuel in Iraq," said one of the drivers. "Even if some of them managed to raise the money, then very few would like to run the gauntlet between Trebeil and Baghdad," he added.

He was referring to the constant attacks by allied warplanes on the main highway between the border and the Iraqi capital. Many oil tankers and trucks as well as other vehicles carrying people fleeing the Gulf war zone have been attacked, and at least 14 truck drivers have been killed and dozens injured.

In many cases, diplomatic missions in Baghdad sent officials to the border to collect the passports of their nationals and return them after securing the special permit from the Iraqi

capital. But the risk that the officials ran on the highway appears to have discouraged the practice, travellers said.

The Egyptian embassy in Baghdad has been closed down. No official at the Egyptian embassy in Amman was available for comment Monday.

The flow of people across the border remained at a trickle Monday, and relief officials expected the situation to remain so at least until a ground offensive starts when many who braved the air assaults might choose to leave.

About 1,450 evacuees remained in Jordan Monday and 253 of them — mostly Vietnamese and a few Sri Lankans and Filipinos — were scheduled to fly out later in the day. The rest included 181 Indians, 118 Sudanese, 65 Egyptians, 10 Pakistanis and a few Vietnamese and Sri Lankans as well as other nationalities.

About 540 are expected to remain in Jordan for some time since they are seeking help from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to secure political asylum in third countries.

"Not all of them do qualify for refugee status," said Janvier de Riedmatten of the UNHCR. "They have sought our help, but that does not automatically make them refugees since we have to review each case on an individual basis," he explained.

Among those seeking UNHCR help are 393 Somalis, 40 Iranians and some Sudanese and Ethiopians, Mr. de Riedmatten said. About half of them are in transit camps while others remain in hotels and private apartments in Amman.

According to figures released by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), 14,290 evacuees (including Monday's departures) have been flown home aboard IOM-chartered flights through Jordan since Jan. 18 — two days after the Gulf war began. Earlier, about 150,000 have been repatriated.

IOM chief of Mission Philip Schatzler said around 2,500 evacuees remained in three countries neighbouring Iraq — Iran, Syria and Turkey as well as Jordan — awaiting flights home. The total number of evacuees to these countries, excluding Jordan, remained at less than 4,000 — since the war began.



Scenes in Baghdad after allied air raids



Iraqi capital back in time

By Dilip Ganguly
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Relentless bombing raids have pushed the city of 1001 nights back into the past. Horse-drawn carts replace cars, water is drawn from the Tigris River. Twigs are gathered from the streets for fuel.

The once-bustling capital, with a peacetime population close to four million, is without electricity. Its discos and nightclubs are shut down, and people head home before dusk, going to bed early because candles are costly.

After more than three weeks of allied air raids, residents suffer from shortages of food, drinking water, medicine and fuel. But they are learning to cope with the deprivations and the almost nightly raids. Some play dominoes to pass the time, others are learning chess.

More and more Iraqis admit in public that they are in favour of ending the war, but they say a ceasefire should not be at the cost of Iraq's honour and pride. Many fear that a U.S.-imposed settlement will make them vulnerable to Western domination.

"We may die, but we will die

with honour," said Sarmad Mohammad, a 26-year-old officer with the state security department who had come to market with his wife Sunday to buy food.

"We are suffering a lot," he said. "Our kids do not have milk. Our parents do not have medicine. We have problems getting anything from toothpaste to eggs. Our lifestyle is changing."

Near the market, outside the 1,200-year-old Al Khadimia Mosque where Saddam Hussein often went before the war, a woman shouted at the top of her voice: "We can fight for 10 years. Tell America we do not want war. Stop this bloodshed."

About a dozen women and men nodded in approval at the tirade from Kesma Hamid, a 31-year-old mother of two.

"We really want to stop the war, but not under America's order," said Mrs. Hamid, whose husband is in the army in Kuwait, ready to fight the U.S.-led multinational force.

"We love our leader. He's our heart," she said of President Saddam.

Although many Iraqis seem confident that their country will somehow escape destruc-

tion, some threaten revenge on U.S. President George Bush for the current misery.

"Someone someday will kill Bush, just wait," said Mohammad Jassim, an 18-year-old student who took a day off from compulsory military service to shop at the market for some candles for his parents.

Elsewhere, children could be seen waving toy rifles in mock attacks on "Satan America."

To cope with the air raids' effects, improvisation is needed.

At the Al Rashid hotel, normally a luxury establishment, the housekeeping staff comes to the rooms holding lanterns to provide light. Guests are told how to use a bucket for flushing toilets. There is no running water or room service.

At the restaurant, open only for limited hours, guests are requested to take small helpings of sugar with their tea or coffee.

Breakfast consists of two pieces of bread, a small portion of meat curry and piece of lemon to help wash it down.

No longer are Iraqis inclined to waste food. Even a half-eaten piece of bread is saved to supplement the next meal.

Algerian fundamentalists say U.S. can only lose Gulf war

ALGIERS (R) — The leader of Algeria's Muslim fundamentalists says the United States will lose the Gulf war even if it burns all of Iraq because of lost credibility in the Muslim World.

Abassi Madani, spokesman of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), told Reuters in an interview the war had created an explosive confrontation between the West and the Arab and Islamic World.

"Fire can ignite even in the hands of he who lights it," he said on Sunday night, referring to the United States, which leads a 28-nation alliance fighting to drive Iraq from Kuwait.

"Psychologically, historically, culturally, America will be defeated even if it burns all of Iraq. America has lost its credibility and interests in the Islamic World, and even in Europe."

Mr. Madani leads the Arab World's largest Muslim fundamentalist party which has swung behind Iraq after criticising its secular regime and invasion of Kuwait early in the Gulf

crisis.

The FIS is the main challenger to the ruling National Liberation Front in general elections later this year and it has vowed to set up an Islamic state in Algeria in 1991.

Mr. Madani returned home Saturday from a visit to Tehran where he apparently won permission to transship food and medicine to Iraq and Kuwait.

Pro-Iraqi fervour has swept the Maghreb states and other Muslim nations since the outbreak of war, opening a breach between rulers and their peoples and inflaming anti-Western sentiment. Mr. Madani warned that Western lives could be in danger.

"We are on the top of a volcano. We have said here that foreigners are our guests, and they have the right to our Protection. But when the volcano explodes, who can control it?"

"The gap they have drilled between the American and Western people and the Islamic peoples is very dangerous."

The future of traditionally close ties between European states and the Muslim Maghreb across the Mediterranean depended on their ability to resist what Mr. Madani called America's will to rule the world.

But he declined to endorse an Iraqi call on Muslim governments to cut diplomatic ties with members of the anti-Iraq alliance, saying only governments could consider such a move.

The FIS planned to launch a campaign to collect food and medicine for the people of Iraq and Kuwait.

"The means (of delivery) are up to the Iranian authorities. We will not interfere in their internal affairs. What we want (to Tehran) for is to allow us to present necessary aid to the Kuwaiti and Iraqi people," Mr. Madani said.

Iran, neutral in the conflict, has already been sending food and medicine to Iraq on humanitarian grounds.

Excerpts from Saddam's address

NICOSIA (AP) — Here are excerpts from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's Sunday night radio address to his country, as carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) and translated from Arabic by the Associated Press in Nicosia:

"We are in the seventh month since the infidels imposed the unjust siege against the Iraqi people, ignoring the things that the laws exempt from the embargo. By this they violated even the thin veil with which they tried to cheat those who wanted to be cheated, the embargo extended even to children's milk ..."

"And when the heathens discovered that the siege would not force the faithful to give up their faith, they thought weapons would force them to give up ... but shame was the fate of their crime and armed aggression ..."

"Iraqis, your enemy believed it was capable of achieving its goals and reversing the course of history (through the siege) and when he failed, he

resorted to direct armed aggression. Here we are in the fourth week of this aggression with the Iraqis becoming more firm in their faith, and shine out more in front of the world."

"The resistance of our heroes to the warplanes and rockets of aggression and shame is the strongest indication to the steadfastness, faith and light in the hearts of the Iraqis and their great readiness not to give up the role willed to them by God, the will to which they responded, faithfully and obediently."

"All the good people will be victorious as Iraq, and victory will restore to the Iraqis all the requirements for a free and honourable living that they will merit as a reward for their patience and steadfastness."

"The Iraqi edifice (colossus) shall liberate the sacred places of the Muslims and the Arabs ..."

"Those who look for triumph should search for it

outside the great chapter of time that has elapsed because it exists in each hour of the confrontation, in each day and week since the first hour of the siege ... since the first day of the armed confrontation until the last day and hour, God willing."

Those who question when and how aggression was defeated should see it in the first moment that the president of the so-called greatest country was forced — as he said — to take the decision of war after the decision of the embargo instead of dialogue, and today against us those whom we bring together when America's power look so small to him, thus God willed it."

"With this (Bush) lost his prestige and made America lose its prestige as the biggest, or greatest nation, as he calls it."

"Bush lost his prestige when he lost conviction and lost the ability to convince through dialogue in order to avoid the course of using arms."

Deadly poker in the desert

SAUDI ARABIA (R) — U.S. and Iraqi forces are engaged in a deadly poker game in the desert where Saudi Arabia meets Kuwait.

Twice in recent days they fought artillery duels that U.S. officials said were part of a continuing Iraqi bid to learn details of the allied hand as both sides build up to an expected land war.

Unlike the allies, the Iraqis have no eyes in the skies above the Gulf. Their air force is grounded and they have no known access to satellite information.

But Iraq knows the U.S.-led coalition is preparing for an offensive and it needs to know the strengths and weaknesses of the enemy.

The brief artillery duels are not believed to have caused casualties or much damage on either side.

In one, U.S. forces fired at an Iraqi patrol which crept into Saudi Arabia at night. In the other, Iraq began shelling and the Americans responded with 150-mm howitzers.

"They're fishing," said U.S. army spokesman Major Baxter Ennis. "It appeared to be a few rounds lobbed out and the Iraqis seeking a response."

But the Americans say they are not being drawn.

"It's not prudent to show your hand too early," Mr. Ennis said. The U.S. officials say Iraqi ground forces have also been careful not to show the size of their firepower. They have limited their artillery barrages.

India continues peace efforts

NEW DELHI — India said Monday it would renew its efforts to end the Gulf war despite the apparent failure of peace move by Iran and non-aligned countries.

"We are unfazed by Iraq's reaction to peace initiatives. We will continue our efforts with vigour," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters.

Indian Foreign Minister Vidya Charan Shukla left Monday for Belgrade for a meeting of foreign ministers of non-aligned countries Tuesday.

The United Nations of India (UNI) news agency reported that India and Iran were expected to present a joint plan at the meeting to end the war.

Quoting diplomatic sources in Delhi, UNI said the plan called for:

— An Iraqi declaration of intent to quit Kuwait;

— A simultaneous end to hostilities;

— Installation of a United Nations monitoring system to supervise troop withdrawals.

UNI said Yugoslavia, current chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, was likely to join India and Iran in sponsoring the plan at the meeting.

Formal statement

The official spokesman also issued a statement on the conduct of military operations in the Gulf.

It said: "The government of India has noted with deep concern that the destruction unleashed by the hostilities in the Gulf has not been confined to military targets. Many innocent lives have been lost. Civilian

properties, including thousands of dwelling houses, have been destroyed, civilian traffic on the road from Baghdad to Amman has been hit, causing death and injuries to many civilians.

Millions of civilians have been caught up in the violence, particularly in Kuwait, without shelter or protection against bombing. Their plight is compounded by the health hazard faced by them owing to the absence of electricity and increasing shortages of clean water.

We would urge that internationally accepted methods of warfare be scrupulously adhered to and every possible precaution taken to protect the civilian population against the devastations and risks of the military operations.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 678 authorises member-states cooperating with the government of Kuwait, to use all necessary means to uphold and implement the resolution. Even those who are participating in the Gulf war in pursuance of this Resolution, have recognised that the objective is to liberate Kuwait and not to subdue Iraq or to dismantle its technological and physical infrastructure or to cripple its social and economic life.

The U.N. Security Council must, at all times, ensure that the conduct of military operations is in strict conformity with the objective of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 678. For this purpose, it should meet urgently to review the present situation and thereafter, from time to time, at the matter under constant review."

Soviet emigres replacing Palestinian labourers

By Segie Shargorodsky
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — When Nasser Haroun managed to sneak out of his house, evade the Israeli curfew and report to the home for the aged where he worked as a janitor, he found his job taken by a Soviet immigrant.

"They told me to go home, and when they need me they will contact me," he said. "I knew that was the nice way of telling me goodbye."

Haroun's story is not unique. When the Gulf war began, the 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were put under curfew. As the curfew persists, a growing number of Palestinians employed in Israel find themselves replaced by Soviet Jews newly arrived and without jobs.

More than 200,000 Soviet Jews have come to Israel since mid-1989. Now, with about 110,000 Palestinians kept away

from their jobs, the Soviets are the obvious choice as cheap labour.

"The Israeli employers are looking for any alternative" to the Palestinians, said Ghassan Khabib, an economist from Bir Zeit University in the West Bank. "The most available alternatives are Soviet immigrants."

Although the curfew has been eased and the army says it would allow some Palestinians to return to their jobs, not all will be allowed to resume work even if their jobs still exist.

The curfew intensified a trend of deteriorating relations between Jews and Arabs that has developed during the three-year-old Palestinian revolt against occupation.

About 17,000 Palestinians have lost their jobs in Israel since the wave of Soviet immigration began, said Shahrer Saad, head of the West Bank's General Federation of Labour Unions.

He said layoffs increased in the last three months of 1990,

when Israel was shaken by several stabbings in revenge for the police killings of over 20 Palestinians in Jerusalem in October.

As Jewish casualties mounted, people screamed for security. Anti-Arab activists paraded one Jerusalem area, demanding that Arab labourers be fired and setting fire to shops that refused to comply.

Authorities issued about 10,000 "green cards" that bar Palestinians from Israel as security risks, and stepped up efforts to ban Palestinians without work permits — about 60 per cent of those who work in Israel.

The world Zionist Organisation fired a dozen Palestinian cleaning workers. A Jerusalem supermarket fired 10 Palestinians.

Omar Al Masri, a 25-year-old labourer from Nablus, his brother Othman and six other Arabs were dismissed by a moving company in Tel Aviv soon after the October vio-

lence. Their boss hired 10 Soviet immigrants.

"I feel anger and pain," Mr. Masri said. "It's hard to see a Russian taking the job I worked for more than seven years. How do you think you feel if you have a loaf of bread and somebody comes and snatches it from you, when you know that loaf of bread is all you have for your family?"

In Jerusalem, Michael Alterman, an immigrant from Tadzhikistan, was one of several Soviet hired by a metalwork factory. The managers then dismissed Arab workers.

They fired Mahmood, who taught us everything," Mr. Alterman said. "It does give a bad feeling, but I have to eat."

The immigrants have other worries: How to manage on an ever-diminishing government stipend, rent an apartment at inflated prices and find a job in a country with a 10 per cent unemployment rate.

Many are happy to take any job — replacing the Palestinian

as "the country's new slaves," to use a phrase from the daily Maariv.

Among Israelis, there is little sympathy for the Palestinians, who have supported Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and applauded when Iraqi missiles fell on Tel Aviv and Haifa.

No figures on Palestinians laid off since the Gulf war began are available, but those on the hiring of Israelis, many of them Soviet immigrants, are revealing.

About 2,300 Israelis were hired for the citrus harvest, which usually is handled by Arabs. The finance ministry agreed to pay 15 shekels (\$7.50) a day more to Israelis working the pick fruit.

Advertisements placed by the Histadrut trade union federation in Russian-language newspapers urged immigrants to help their new homeland by working in "agriculture, flower-growing, harvesting, construction" and other fields.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES	
06:59	Fajr
06:18	Sunrise (Dhuhr)
11:58	Dhuhr
14:58	'Asr
17:22	Maghrib
18:40	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swaidah Tel. 810740.	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326.	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 622541.	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be partly cloudy and a rise in temperatures is expected.	
Min./max. temp.	
Amman	3/14

Amman Catholic Church Tel. 771531.	Amman Orthodox Church Tel. 772611.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	Amman International Church Tel. 683326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 812295.	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Ajam	694184
Dr. Daud Samhouri	689535
Dr. Youssef Al Rajhi	657909
Pine pharmacy	661912
Petrows pharmacy	778336
Amman:	
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairokh pharmacy	626672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
St. Joseph pharmacy	637660
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Information	773111
Rescue	630441

Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	892226
Blood Bank	773121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	665800
Prior Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdall Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-33200
Queen Alla Intl. Airport	08-33208
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813613/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	644216/6
Akshid Maternity, J. Amn	642412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Madhat, J. Amman	636140
Madhat, Shamsi	664717/4
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845945
Al-Hussein Hospital	662271/9
The Islamic, Abdall	662173/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6	Beans	520 / 450
Al-Ahli, Al-Malahroun	777101/3	Cabbage	100 / 50
Al-Badr, J. Asmudieh	775112/26	Cauliflower	200 / 150
Amey, Marika	891611/15	Cauliflower	300 / 250
Queen Alla Hospital	602405/0	Cauliflower (large)	150 / 100
Amal Hospital	674133	Cauliflower (small)	300 / 250
ZARQA:		Dates	500 / 400
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323	Eggplant	200 / 150
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071	Garlic	1600 / 1400
The Sun Hospital	(09)98732	Lentils	200 / 150
ERBID:		Marrow (large)	150 / 100
Princess Beama Hospital	(02)273555	Marrow (small)	220 / 200
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275	Onion (dry)	270 / 220
Ibn Al Nafous Hospital	(02)27100	Onion (green)	180 / 120
AQABA:		Onions	600 / 500
Princess Haya Hospital	(09)814111	Orange	300 / 200
MARKET PRICES		Pepper (hot)	360 / 280
<i>Upper/lower price in Ails per kg.</i>		Pepper (sweet)	220 / 180
Apple	530 / 480	Potato	200 / 150
Banana	500 / 450	Radish	100 / 50
		Sage	350 / 250

Jordan commemorates Al Israa Wal Miraj

Muslim leaders denounce genocide of Iraqis

By Isam Qadmani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Speakers at a religious ceremony held in Amman Monday on the eve of the Al Israa Wal Miraj anniversary attacked the United States and its allies for waging a war of genocide against Iraq and lashed out at Israel for its continued repression and inhuman treatment of the Palestinians under occupation.

His Majesty King Hussein attended the ceremony, held at King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein mosque at Abdali, listened to Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Zeid Al Kilani outlining the sublime meanings of the religious occasion and the anniversary which, he said, comes while a battle in which Arabs and Muslims are being killed and wounded is being waged.

The foreign powers launching aggression on Iraq represent the world imperialist forces which came not to liberate Kuwait but rather to annihilate the Arab Islamic forces, the minister said in his address at the ceremony which was attended by a vast congregation of worshippers.

The Islamic nation is living through crucial times during which the holy Islamic places in Jerusalem and Aqsa Mosque remain under siege and in the grip of Zionist forces. Indeed the Arab and Islamic nations are living through a crucial test facing an onslaught in the occupied Arab territories in Palestine and in the Gulf; and should remain united and steadfast in the face of the challenge, Kilani said.

Member of the Upper House of Parliament Ishaq Al Farhan

also addressed the worshippers and called on the leaders of the Islamic nation to join against the unbelievers and abort the aggression on their nation. Farhan attacked the behaviour of leaders of Arab countries who he said committed a crime by stealing the nation's funds to finance the campaign against Iraq, squandering billions of dollars on the forces of aggression.

Another speaker was the Kingdom's Mufti Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi who said that Iraq should not be left alone facing the multitude of evil forces arrayed against the Iraqi Arab Muslim people.

Among those attending the ceremony were Prime Minister Mudar Badran, speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, cabinet members and parliament deputies.



His Majesty King Hussein attends prayers at King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Mosque yesterday during celebrations of the Al Israa Wal Miraj occasion (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

King congratulates Iran

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable of congratulations to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on the occasion of Iran's National Day anniversary. King Hussein wished Rafsanjani continued good health and happiness and the Iranian people further progress and prosperity.

Israelis allow many out, few in Stranded Palestinians press for return

By Ghadeer Taber
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Angry Palestinians marched Monday to protest Israeli measures barring them from returning to their homes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We have protested to the concerned international agencies about the Israeli measures, but Israel does what it wants and never listens to anyone," said Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs.

"Israel's declared goal is to transfer the Palestinians from their homeland... they (the Israelis) are using this chance (the Gulf war) to bar them from returning," Qatanani told reporters as a demonstrator read a written statement demanding that they be allowed to return.

The demonstrators, an estimated 150, carrying banners and wearing traditional dress, marched from the Department of Palestinian Affairs to the Amman offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations.

Another department official, Rafeh Amr, said Israel has barred 5,000 people, mostly those who lost their jobs and savings in Kuwait, from crossing into the occupied territories since the beginning of the Gulf war.

He said that tens of thousands have already lost their "residency permits" in the occupied territories because the Israeli authorities "have denied them entry and now their permits have expired."

The demonstrators, all resident of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with proper documents, presented a memorandum with their names to the ICRC and U.N. offices in Amman demanding respect for the 1967 agreement and their right to return to their homes. Israel grants special permits to Palestinians under the 1967 ceasefire agreement to cross into Jordan to visit families, medical treatment or work abroad.

"We have informed our delegates in the occupied territories about the issue and they are in contact with the Israeli authorities. We are still waiting

for their response," ICRC chief delegate in Amman, Werner Kasper, told the demonstrators.

Before the outbreak of the war, an average 3,000 Palestinians were allowed to cross the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges into the West Bank daily. But since the war, Israel has only allowed very few — sometimes less than 10 — to cross westwards but has allowed many to leave the occupied territories.

"I was turned back from the bridge three times without any reason," said Omar Al Razem, 75, from Jerusalem. "Children and old people wait for hours at the Israeli border checkpoint before being told to go back."

Fida Atwan, 65, said that she was refused entry seven times. "My sister is dead, I have no family to stay with in Jordan and no money. They have turned me back seven times and everytime they tell me to go back to Jordan," she said with tears rolling down her haggard face. She said she came to Jordan to visit her sick sister, who died last week.

Army said that at the beginning of the war, Israel said it would allow only 50 people to cross into the occupied territories at each bridge. Then the Israelis stipulated that only people over 50 years of age would be able to cross.

"Israel has not adhered to the rules it has set," Amr said. "On Sunday the Israelis allowed only seven to cross the two bridges, the day before only six and on Monday 22," he said.

On Monday, 110 people were turned back at the bridges, the only link between the two banks.

Dr. Qatanani told the Jordan Times last week that the number of Palestinians leaving the territories was more than double those entering. "The Israeli measures are tantamount to mass deportation of the Palestinian people," he said.

Amr said that the department has contacted the United Nations, international organisations and foreign embassies to intervene "but there has been no progress on helping these people."



Palestinians demonstrate in Amman yesterday pressing for their right to return to their homes in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Alawneh continues south tour

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Mohammed Alawneh Monday toured the southern provinces of Jordan visiting the Governorate of Maan where he inspected agricultural projects.

The minister called at an animal quarantine in Aqaba and toured the agricultural projects in Disi, Qawaira and Wadi Rum, and was briefed on the agricultural situation.

Later, he inspected an agricultural project at Qasemeh where apple trees are being planted, and discussed services offered to the local farmers by the agricultural department in Maan. The next leg was Shobak where the minister's tour took him to the agricultural nurseries and the

extension service department. Alawneh Sunday visited the Karak province where he underlined the need for the country to produce cereals. His tours took him to Ghor Al Safi where he announced that Jordanian farmers will be provided with seeds, fertiliser and other farming requirements through a national corporation for agricultural services that will soon be set up.

Discussion during the tour centered also on the prospects of creating farmers committees that the minister said, could supervise and steer the marketing process.

Alawneh announced the creation of a department of agriculture in the southern Jordan Valley region. The minister also visited Al Rabbeh, Al Waleh and Al Musawwar agricultural stations.

Two executed for spying

AMMAN (Petra) — Two Jordanian nationals were executed Feb. 3 at Swaga prison south of Amman after being convicted by a military court of spying for Israel. The two were Lieutenant Ali Abdul Hafiz Hafez, a Royal Air Force pilot, and Ahmad Mohammad Ahmad.

Iran, Jordan conclude \$66m phosphate deal

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iran has signed an agreement for the purchase of Jordanian phosphate during 1991 at the total cost of \$66 million. The rock will be shipped to Iranian ports in monthly consignments, according to Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) Director General Wasef Azar.

Azar told the Jordan Times that Iran has agreed to purchase 250,000 tonnes of phosphates and phosphate by-products. The first shipment is due by the end of February.

Jordan, for its part, is planning to import Iranian sulphur used in the phosphate and other industries.

The deal is the first between the two countries since they restored diplomatic ties on Jan. 15 this year, following a break of nearly 10 years during the Iran-Iraq war.

Jordan's overall phosphate exports amounted to 4.9 million tonnes last year compared to 6.5 million in 1989 mainly due to uncertainty and confusion that prevailed in eastern European states following political changes there during the past year, according to Azar. He said that east Europe, particularly Romania and Poland, have now resumed imports of Jordan's phosphates, and the total sale of phosphate this year was expected to exceed that of last year.

Azar expects the JPMC to sell 6.5 million tonnes of the rock in addition to other amounts of diammonia phosphate, aluminium fluoride and phosphoric acid.

He said India remains the largest importer of these items

from Jordan. "It bought 1.75 million tonnes of phosphate and 400,000 tonnes of diammonia phosphate in 1990," Azar added.

Apart from India, Jordan's present phosphate export markets include Turkey, China, Japan, Taiwan, Pakistan, South Korea, Bangladesh, Greece, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia.

Azar said the agreement to sell the Iranians and phosphate products was reached through correspondence due to difficulties in air transport resulting from the Gulf war.

Jordanian-Iranian trade was also expected to pick up following the resumption of formal relations.

Jordan maintained imports from Iran 1987, 1988 and 1989, and last year Jordan bought Iranian products worth more than JD 2 million, according to official statistics.

Jordan imported a variety of goods from Iran such as nuts, water melon, melon seeds raisins and carpets, and sold Iranian yeast, paint, house hold plastic products, clothes and shoes.

Most of the trade was conducted overland via Turkey and Syria. The phosphate deal announcement came close on the heels of a visit to Tehran by delegation representing the "Muslim Brotherhood" who spent five days in Iran talking to officials and parliament members.

A speaker for the group said that the Iranian leadership expressed readiness to come to the defence of Jordan, should the Kingdom be faced with an Israeli attack.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEFS

Prince Hassan receives Giacomelli

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received at the Royal Court Monday Gerogio Giacomelli Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) who is ending his mandate soon. Giacomelli voiced UNRWA's appreciation to Jordan for its cooperation with the Agency during his mandate and Prince Hassan's interest in the Agency's operations and services to the Palestinian refugees. Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, Director of the Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs was present at the meeting.

Abu Taleb thanks donors

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb has thanked to Adil Abu Khajil, chairman of the board of directors of a local import export firm, for the company's donation of JD 10,000 for the People's Army. Abu Taleb sent a similar cable to Bustani and Sahib company thanking them for donating JD 5,000 to the People's Army.

Students demonstrate in solidarity with Iraq

AMMAN (Agencies) — More than 10,000 students and teachers at the University of Jordan took part in a march on campus Monday to express solidarity with the Iraqi people.

Participants in the march lauded Jordan's stand as expressed by its leadership, government and people and denounced attacks on Jordanian oil tankers inside the Iraqi border. They also called for bringing to an end the aggression on Iraq and the crimes committed against Iraqi people.

They also appealed to scientific and educational institutions and committees to condemn these crimes which they said aimed at undermining the capabilities of the Arabs and the Muslims.

Many students clad in western clothing mingled with young fundamentalist women, their heads covered in white scarves as they marched and chanted their opposition to America and its

allies. "No good morning, no good night, on America, we will fight," shouted students and faculty members.

Others carrying small replicas of Al Hussein (modified Scud) missiles urged Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to use chemical weapons against Israel and destroy Tel Aviv.

They cheered as they burned U.S., British, French and Italian flags at the end of the march.

Iraq has fired almost 61 (Al Hussein) at Israel and Saudi Arabia since the start of the Gulf war on Jan. 17. All carried conventional warheads.

One professor said: "We are not neutral. If we had the power we would kill every American soldier, every French soldier, every Israeli soldier. And the time will come and you will see. This is the last time for colonialism to be in this area."

Attack on Jordanian tankers not justified Turkey must not get involved in war — Ecevit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is not to blame for securing its oil requirements from Iraq with approval from the U.N. Security Council, and Turkey must put an end to air attacks on Iraq from Turkish territory and refrain from pursuing a policy that may cause emotional actions in the Arab World like the attack on Turkish trucks at the border town of Ramtha, the Turkish Democratic Left Party (DSP) said in a statement Monday.

The DSP's central committee, chaired by former Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit called in its statement to refrain from direct or indirect involvement in the Gulf war and for preventing air raids on Iraq to emanate from Turkish territory.

"Out of necessity, Jordan imports its oil requirements from Iraq and the Security Council regards this as legitimate," the statement said. "Yet American war planes have started bombing tankers carrying Iraqi oil to Jordan causing heavy loss in life and material as well as economic difficulties."

It said that the American claim that the oil tanker trucks were being used to transport arms to Iraq was not convincing at all

because the trucks were travelling from Iraq to Jordan and not the other way. "In fact the U.N. secretary general has reprimanded the United States in this regard," the DSP statement added.

Referring to the recent incident at Ramtha, the statement said that the Jordanian people have addressed their anger to a number of Turkish trucks carrying goods to Saudi Arabia. Turkey must refrain from pursuing a policy that may cause emotional reactions against itself among the Arab people and must try to dissuade the fighting parties from using such means and weapons that may cause harm to humans, the statement said.

"In the meantime, President Turgut Ozal has recently been referring to the people of Iraq as 'peoples' and has been displaying a tendency to interfere in the internal affairs of this country by proposing a federal structure for post-war Iraq."

"The U.N. Security Council has, not only demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, but also has called upon both countries to 'begin immediately intensive negotiations for the resolution

of their differences', promising 'support' for 'all efforts in this regard'. This aspect of the Security Council resolutions has been totally disregarded."

"During the course of the Gulf war, oil wells and refineries are being put to fire or bombed; and installations that may cause fatal spillage are being attacked from the air. Such actions endanger all the regional countries and may cause great harm to nature. Turkey should ask the United Nations to warn the fighting parties to refrain from such actions and from attacking civilian targets."

"Certain Western countries have already started planning for the future of the post-war Middle East. Yet certain Western powers are, to a large extent, responsible for the interminable problems, tensions and conflicts of the Middle East. Peace can be obtained in the Middle East only if these non-regional powers stop interfering in the region. Turkey must try to make the West understand that the problems of the Middle East can only be resolved if the regional countries are given a chance to address these problems among themselves; and Turkey must refrain from acting as a representative of the West in the region."

Canada, Australia aid Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — Australia is to provide \$391,000 for emergency assistance to the Palestinians, according to announcement by the Australian Minister for Trade and Overseas Development, Neal Blewett, Monday.

An Australian embassy press release in Amman quoted the minister as saying that this contribution is in response to the worsening conditions of the Palestinian people.

According to the press release, Blewett said the Gulf crisis and the ensuing conflict have cut remittances, a significant source of income for many Palestinian families.

"In addition, the prolonged curfew imposed by Israel in the occupied Arab territories, although now partially lifted, has caused serious food shortages,"

the minister said. He said that an estimated 300,000 families in the Palestinian lands have been affected by the situation.

According to the press release, the funds will be channelled through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

In the meantime, Canada has announced further aid to the Palestinians totalling 1,305 million Canadian dollars.

Monique Landry, Minister for External Relations and International Development, announced that her country was granting additional assistance to the victims of the Gulf crisis including the Palestinians.

The assistance, she said, is being provided through the Canadian

International Development Agency (CIDA).

Landry noted that 230,000 Canadian dollars will be disbursed through the Canadian Catholic Organisation for Development and Peace, to Medical Aid for Palestine (MAP) which specialises in assistance operations in the occupied territories.

She said that 75,000 Canadian dollars will be disbursed through Oxfam-Quebec as a contribution to maintain an international team of doctors and medical staff in Amman.

In a press release from the Canadian embassy here, Landry was quoted as saying: "We will continue to closely monitor developments in the situation as Canada is constantly aware that innocent civilians are the first victims of this war and we must help them."

International Women's League campaigns for Gulf peace

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Monday condemned the war "staged against Iraq, and Iraqi civilian centres," and called for an immediate ceasefire and an end to hostilities. During a press conference the league also discussed the situation in the occupied territories and the repercussions of the Israeli "blanket curfew" on the Palestinian population.

"Peace is possible when humans use their intelligence for peace not war," Dr. Fathieh Saudi, a pediatrician, said during the conference. "We have hope to overcome war and have peace," she added.

Dr. Saudi, said that women had a great role to play in these times of crisis, and called on them to take every possible action to bring this war to an end. "Women like to live for a cause rather than die for it," she stressed.

During a conference of the League held last week in Geneva, the women proposed certain actions to express their rejection of aggression against Iraq. These include wearing a black and white band around the arm for the duration of the war. "The black represents war and death and the white peace now," she said.

"On March 8 — International Women's Day — we ask all women to wear black to mourn

the ongoing war in the Gulf," Dr. Saudi said. "We don't want war waged in our name. All children are our children," she added.

Dr. Saudi also proposed a march to Baghdad in which women would carry food and medicine to the people of Iraq. She said that the league had sent a memorandum to the United Nations rejecting resolution 618 allowed war against the people of Iraq. "This war has damaged the image of the United Nations as a peace-seeking and peace-keeping body," she added.

"We reject the selective application of U.N. resolutions, and the use of the U.N. as a war machine. We call for a ceasefire and an immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from the area," she said.

The women also discussed the state of Palestinians in the occupied territories, who have been under a severe "blanket curfew" since the onset of the war in the Gulf.

"This curfew is inhumane. The lives of many Palestinians are threatened," Suha Eid, a member of the league said. Eid stressed the need to address the Palestinian problem and all other problems in the region in order to avoid the outbreak of other wars. "If the Palestinian problem is not solved then we will have another war," she said.

Eid said the curfew is causing many hardships such as the deterioration of the economic

situation — because workers, farmers, shop owners and others are not allowed to go to work — shortages of foodstuff, deterioration of medical and health facilities, and the restrictions imposed on medical staff.

"There is also an escalation of violence against Palestinians, and an increase in arrests. The Israelis have also tried to deport Palestinian activists such as Feisal Hussein and Mohammad Jamal, in an effort to undermine Palestinian high moral regarding the war in the Gulf," Eid said.

Eid added that there were reports that Israelis were hindering the work of relief organisations by restricting their movement. "UNRWA could not distribute food for refugees because it was denied mobility," she said.

Two outstanding complaints that violated international law were shortages of milk for children, and refusal to pass out gas masks to Palestinians in the occupied territories. Another violation of human rights is the mistreatment of detainees, especially Israeli failure to provide them with proper shelters in times of danger, Eid said.

Eid called for the end of the curfew, respect of the Fourth Geneva Convention, international protection for Palestinians, an appeal to countries and international organisations to send food and medicine, and the dispatch of a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories.

Port employees contribute to People's Army

AMMAN (J.T.) — Employees of the Jordanian Ports Corporation Monday announced their contribution of a day's pay for the People's Army and another day's pay for supporting the Iraqi people.

The General Union of Land Transport Workers in Jordan announced the donation of JD 15,000. JD 8000 will go to the People's Army and the rest to general efforts to support Iraq in its war with the allied forces.

The largest donation yet came from the Jordan Phosphate Mines

Company (JPMC) which gave JD 121,000 to the People's Army in response to calls by the government and members of Parliament for contributions to the People's Army which forms a back-up force for the regular armed forces.

JPMC Director General, Wasef Azar, presented a cheque for the sum to army Chief of Staff, Fathi Abu Taleb, at a meeting in the latter's office Sunday evening.

Abu Taleb expressed appreciation to the company for its gener-

ous contribution that came from the workers and the management, and said that the donation manifests the people's endeavours to support the armed forces which defend the homeland. Abu Taleb also voiced his appreciation to all other organisations and citizens for contributing to the same cause.

Jordanian officials said that the People's Army comprises at least 320,000 men and women who have been trained in the use of light arms, civil defence, first aid and protection against chemical warfare.

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Palestinian cause will stay alive

FOR FIVE and a half months, Iraq maintained its willingness to discuss and settle all Middle East problems, including those of Palestine and Kuwait. The U.S., manipulating the U.N. Security Council and coercing other nations refused to give the idea even a second thought.

However, what Iraq and the Palestinians earnestly wanted to achieve — a linkage between the two issues, and eventual peace — was only accomplished under the thunder of guns in the Gulf. Not that the Palestinian plight needs a linkage. That Arab people's cause has been campaigned for by the nations of the region and the world for decades. The Palestinians have paid for it with their blood and with the loss of their homeland.

Now after 50 years of national struggle, 23 years under Israeli occupation and three years of a bloody revolt, the Palestinians are yet being subjected to the most brutal and racist occupation. They have been kept under a blanket curfew for the last three weeks, denied work, food-purchase, health care and all the privileges of a free people.

Having all along shouted at the Israelis, the U.S. and the world community, demanding their right for freedom and statehood, the only consolation they have is to hear Iraqi Al Hussein (Scud) missiles land on Israel. And some people, especially in the "civilised" West think this is weird. But it is not. What would the captured be wishing his captor except destruction and annihilation?

Of course this is a late hour for an appeal to ease the sufferings of the Palestinians. But it is never too late for a warning. Palestine and the Palestinians have always been the focal point of Arab nationalism from Jamal Abdul Nasser to Saddam Hussein. And regardless of the stand of Washington's Arab allies in the Gulf war, that cause will always be the standard by which matters of politics in the region will be measured.

When the dust — and smog — settle over the Gulf, the Palestinians will still be there, but their vengeance will have grown. If Israel thinks the world, in its preoccupation with the "news" from the Gulf, will forget the Palestinians, the Palestinians themselves, as they have always done, will make sure that their cause is still alive and their captors tormented.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I ARABIC daily Monday said all the appeals directed to the aggressor to stop their air raids have been in vain because they are full of hatred against the Arabs and the Muslims. All the calls on the U.S.-led alliance to stop killing children and old people and stop destroying mosques, churches, hospitals and the economic infrastructure of Iraq have fallen on deaf ears, because the aggressors and the pirates closed their eyes and their ears and their hearts have turned into stone, the paper said. It said the aggression on Iraq is being waged under false claims and the destruction is being carried out in the name of the United Nations and the international legitimacy. In the name of the world community the aggressors are committing the most brutal crimes against humanity and the war mongers are finding vent for their hatred and their resentment of the Third World through various means of destruction and killing, the paper continued. King Hussein's call on the world community to opt for reason and logic; and the Pope's prayers and appeals for peace seem to have been ignored by the Western alliance arrayed against the Iraqi people, the paper added. As to those Arabs who have chosen to support the aggressors on an Arab country, the day will come when they have to answer to their masses and then, said the paper they will be sorry for what they did and the crime they supported. It said when the Iraqi people and armed forces come out victorious the Arab masses are bound to have vent on those leaders who have lost their self-respect and the cause for survival.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily calls on Iraq to seize the opportunity of the Gulf war and propose plans that link the Gulf issue with those of Palestine and Southern Lebanon so as to ensure their resolutions. Hosni Ayeshe says that Iran assumes a very significant status within the Arab and Islamic nations, and it has a duty to play the role which the late Khomeini had originally set his country to exercise. The writer says that the late Khomeini had urged his people to work for liberating the occupied holy land of Palestine and to evict the Zionists from the holy places; and therefore, this Islamic nation should refrain from playing the same political game played by other countries of the world and should focus attention on the means of liberating Jerusalem and its holy shrines. He hopes that Iran will seize the present opportunity and back its words with deeds and carry out its threats directed against the new crusaders now invading the Muslim land. Ayeshe said. The ongoing war in the Gulf, the writer adds, represents a real test for all the nations of the region and a test for the will of the Muslim nation. He says if Iran and Iraq stand together in this ordeal and back their words with deeds and confront the forces of evil and the great Satan, the Islamic world will be free and the emergence of the new world Islamic force will become a reality.

By Mark Heinrich
Reuter

BERLIN — The row over German firms supplying Iraq with the means to attack Israel has exposed the painfully strained relationship between Germans and Jews despite a public gloss of reconciliation and atonement.

Since the end of World War II Germany has maintained close diplomatic ties with Israel, marking every Holocaust anniversary with speeches about atonement for the past and funneling tens of billions of dollars in reparations to Jewish survivors of the Nazi era.

But behind the scenes, German companies were providing Iraq with the components, equipment and expertise to accumulate chemical and biological weaponry.

The companies also helped Iraq lengthen the range of its Soviet-made missiles so they could hit Israel.

Iraq arms row shows strain underlying German-Jewish ties

Since the Jan. 17 outbreak of the Gulf war, Iraq has blasted 31 Scud rockets at Israel, killing four people and injuring 299.

All the missiles had conventional warheads but Israelis fear others will be tipped with poison gas weapons.

Back in Germany, neo-Nazis interviewed on prime-time television laughed about Jewish casualties in Scud attacks, volunteered to fight for Iraq and flashed the Hitler salute.

Bonn parliament speaker Rita Suessmuth said after returning from a visit to Israel last week that she encountered "deep scepticism and shaken trust" toward

Germans.

"You can imagine how the link between air raid alarms, poison gas masks and neo-Nazis raised the question among Israelis whether there is any sense at all to maintaining contacts with Germans," she told German radio.

Press disclosures of German aid to Iraq surfaced during the countdown to war, causing a groundswell of anti-German feeling among Israelis once the missiles ploughed into their homes.

Government ministers are now trooping to Israel for fence-mending visits but German Jewish leader Heinz Galinski has

accused most Germans of showing striking indifference to the spectre of an Iraqi gas attack on Israel.

Germany's relations with Israel and its own small Jewish population are a model of public reconciliation.

Bonn has been one of Israel's staunchest supporters in the West apart from the United States. Political visits and exchanges are common and Germans were frequent tourists to Israel until the Gulf crisis.

Germany has paid more than \$50 billion to Israel and Jews worldwide as compensation for Nazi war crimes.

"What more do the Jews want?" the average German thinks when Jews criticise Germany.

Polls and private comments show most Germans feel no responsibility for what their forefathers did to Jews or for Israel's welfare. A persistent minority harbour anti-semitic sentiments.

German insensitivity to the past has been underscored by repeated slip-ups, some of them major scandals, in the official record of reconciliation.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl stunned Israelis when, during a 1984 visit, he referred to "mercy for

the later born" in discussing moral responsibility for wartime Nazi atrocities.

In 1985 he and then-U.S. President Ronald Reagan paid homage to war dead at a cemetery containing Nazi SS graves.

In 1988 Bonn's parliament speaker gave an address marking the 50th anniversary of a notorious Nazi pogrom in which he appeared to approve of Germany's anti-semitic drift to mass murder. Kohl hastily sacked him.

Last year Bonn dismayed Jews by ignoring appeals to insert a clause in the German unity treaty noting Nazi crimes and saying the reunified nation had a special duty to ensure they never happened again.

After the Gulf war erupted, German peace rallies denounced the U.S.-led blitzkrieg against Iraq while almost totally ignoring Scud missile barrages against Israel.

Military standards in Middle East politics

By John King
The Associated Press

DHAHRAN — A Saudi prince was asked whether George Bush or Saddam Hussein can claim time as an ally in the Gulf war.

"It depends," he said, "whether you are talking about military standards or Middle East standards."

As the war nears the three-week mark, it is not an idle question.

U.S. President Bush insists he will be rushed into a bloody ground war with the Iraqi leader's formidable army, and appears content to hold off on an allied ground offensive until he is convinced U.S. casualties will be minimal.

"He wants us to proceed in a very cautious, methodical manner," Bush's defense secretary, Dick Cheney, said Monday.

Saddam, on the other hand, sometimes appears bent on drawing the United States and its allies into a ground war sooner than they planned. At other times, he seems content to simply survive the relentless allied air attack and claim the mantle of leadership among the considerable throng of Arabs who revile the United States.

Even if Saddam loses Kuwait, many Middle East experts believe he could remain a feared and, in some circles, revered figure in the region.

"By Middle East standards, so far it is a draw or maybe even Saddam is slightly ahead," said the Saudi prince, who declined to be further identified. "To say that worries us is an understatement, yes indeed."



There were other worries voiced by the prince, and by Middle East experts as well. Among them:

It is getting warmer in the desert again, with scorching temperatures about two months away. Many of the frontline U.S. army and other ground troops were not here last summer to acclimate.

"I had two guys treated for frost-bite the other day, yes I'm worried about the heat," British Capt. Bob Ferguson said last week. "The unbearable heat will be here before

we know it. We've got to get this resolved by then, and we will."

— Muslim religious holidays are approaching, including Ramadan in March, when Muslims fast from dawn to sunset. Cultural sensitivities likely will be heightened during Muslim religious periods.

— Saddam, although his military has to be hurting, retains the twin threats of terrorism and chemical weapons, and the successful use of either could immediately alter the face and direction of the war.

Also, Saddam continues his effort to draw Israel into the conflict, which also could dramatically affect the coalition.

Bush and his deputies, not surprisingly, reject such arguments and say they will not let external factors affect military decisions.

"I don't buy the argument that he's somehow winning by losing," Cheney said Monday. He added: "I would argue that the United States and our allies are on the side of majority opinion in the Arab World."

Still, senior allied commanders concede they worry virtually daily that Saddam will play some form of trump card that shakes Saudi and other Arab support for the war.

One scenario often mentioned is an Iraqi terrorist attack against a major Saudi oil or government facility.

Military officials said such considerations were a factor in the U.S. decision to immediately strike Iraq's nuclear and chemical weapons facilities.

"If a deal was cut after two days, we were going to be certain we had crippled his unconventional assets," a senior army officer said privately.

The Saudi prince insists no deal will be made.

Still, he said he would prefer a swift resolution to the crisis because of nagging fears that Saddam will find a way to break even, which might be considered a victory by Middle East standards.

Another factor is conservative pressure within Saudi Arabia, particularly from religious leaders, to resolve the crisis so that the hundreds of thousands of Westerners here will go home.

Appeal to academics

The following is a letter circulated to academics, universities, colleges and centres of research and learning throughout the world.

As professors concerned with the future of humanity and the emergence of a truly peaceful international world order, we call upon you to bring before the decision-makers in your country the need for an immediate halt to the raging military hostilities in the Gulf. Please allow us to emphasise the following points:

I. The sanctity of human life everywhere should be of great concern to us all. The Iraqi people are currently subjected to a barrage of brutal devastation unequalled in history.

II. The vehemence of the attack on Iraq is already awakening bitter memories of an earlier ugly racist crusadism and promises, should it continue, to develop into an Arab-Islamic-Western confrontation. We urge you to help us in averting such a development.

III. The concentrated carpet bombing of the Iraqi landscape is not only demolishing Islamic and Christian holy places, but also great monuments and antiquities constituting much of the heritage of man everywhere. Furthermore the human tragedy resulting from this conflict has already been overshadowed by an environmental disaster unparalleled in the history of man.

IV. We wish to emphasise that the desired international order should rest on the firm belief in the natural human rights, not only of individuals but of nations too. Such a world order should be built on the principles of cooperation, equality, justice and respect of cultural diversity.

V. Let us work together to bring about an end to this costly and devastating conflict that is already costing over one billion dollars per day. In addition to this wasted material resources, tremendous human effort and brain power has already been wasted too.

Think with us what the shape of the world would be, had such resources been devoted to combat poverty, illiteracy and disease!

VI. And finally we urge you to join us in addressing the problems of the region comprehensively: The Palestine problem and the plight of the Palestinians, the Lebanese and the Gulf crisis, to bring about a just and durable peace. Only in such a manner can the resources of the region be utilised for the welfare of the peoples of the region and towards the building of human civilisation.

This call emanating from the Holy Land, the cradle of civilisation and the "three great monotheistic religions", should, hopefully strike a responsive chord with our colleagues in the academic community throughout the world.

Though this appeal is from the Jordanian academic community, we believe it reflects the genuine desire, aspirations and hope of our Arab and Islamic nations everywhere.

With best regards and respect,

Faculty Members of
Jordan University,
P.O. Box 13015
Fax: 962-6-832318,
Amman - Jordan.

LETTERS

For the record

To the Editor:

I would like to draw your attention to an article, which appeared in the Jordan Times, page 3, on Thursday, Feb. 7, 1991, entitled "Japan approves \$450m soft loan to Jordan." The second paragraph of that article included some inaccuracy that I wish to clarify.

I met with Dr. Abdullah, Minister of Planning, on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 1991, and not on Wednesday as the Jordan Times article says. The meeting with H.E. the minister took place before the official announcement vis-a-vis the loan was made in Tokyo by the government of Japan and not "one day after the Japanese government in Tokyo announced its final decision on the amount of the loan," as the Jordan Times says in its Thursday article.

I will be grateful if you could publish the above clarification.

Ambassador of Japan,
Tadayuki Nomiyama.

'The France of Charles de Gaulle'

To the Editor:

France, the country of freedom, fraternity and equality, as claimed by the French, is now fighting the innocent civilian people of Iraq and resisting their freedom in defending their land and life. "It is trying to destroy a family in the international community, it is trying to become a master and to make a proud civilised people like the Iraqis, servants of their ambitions and goals. That was never achieved in the past and it will never be because as much as the French are proud of their country and patriotism, so is every Iraqi proud of his land and country. It's more than obvious how much the Iraqi people trust the Iraqi leadership," too.

How can a people like the French claim: "they are civilised while hundreds of people are killed by the French troops? The people are being murdered by French pilots and bombs are people of flesh and blood like you, the French. They are people who had once hopes, dreams and ambitions. They're not just pictures to be shown on TV screens or in newspapers."

Jean-Pierre Chevènement gave Bush and the French leadership which is dragged into war, a strong slap in the face by resigning. His resignation expressed many things, most important of which is that it meant that Paris isn't the capital of freedom, equality and fraternity as it used to be considered. It is not the Paris of the great French leader Charles de Gaulle, not any more.

Saleema Keyrahl,
Amman.

Duty dictates

The following is a letter from the Arab Committee for Supporting Iraq to the secretary general of the United Nations. A copy was made available for the Jordan Times.

More than three weeks have elapsed since the start of military action against Iraq without any sign whatsoever from the U.N. and from yourself in particular to intervene. It seems that you are waiting until Iraq is completely destroyed so that your new "American" international order will be imposed. It goes without saying that the cost for this international order shall be high. Such cost could have been directed towards other international issues so that its implementation sounds more convincing. Strange enough, Mr. Secretary General, is your passive role in this crisis to the extent that you look helpless even in expressing one word for the peace option after the war has erupted. We pray not only for peace to prevail but also for you to act in accordance with the dictates of your duty.

Arab Committee For
Supporting Iraq

'The American barbarian invasion'

To the Editor:

As an Arab I'm mad because of the cruel invasion of Iraq by the allied forces. But the Iraqi soldiers defended their property bravely. And Saddam even shot some missiles on Israel.

But Israel got all the attention and that is why I'm mad too. Countries are giving Israel millions of dollars while the Palestinian people are dying at the hands of the soldiers of Israel.

I wonder why all the countries are racing to satisfy Israel while we the Arabs are divided and we have the same religion and the same language.

As Arabs what we must do is to love each other and to be joined together. And I hope victory is to Saddam and to the Iraqi soldiers.

Ali Khalid Al Awamleh
(12-year-old)

Futility of U.N.

The following is a copy of a letter from the Committee for Palestinian Deportees to the United Nations secretary general which was sent to the secretary on Feb. 11. A copy was made available to the Jordan Times.

H. E. Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar
Secretary General
United Nations

THE "Committee for Palestinian Deportees" addresses you once more during these hard times, to express their deep resentment of the severe curfew measures imposed in the Palestinian occupied territories by the Israeli authorities, immediately upon the USA and its NATO allies started their most brutal aggression against the Arab Iraqi people which in itself proves beyond any doubt the direct and material linkage between the so-called Gulf crisis and the long unresolved Palestinian problem, i.e. the civil life in both Iraq and Palestine is the main target of the aggression of the American-Israeli alliance.

Our people in the Occupied Territories have, as you are fully aware been under continuous curfew for more than twenty days, given only 2-3 hours every few days for mobility, a period not at all sufficient to enable them to perform the simplest and basic errands needed for living. Workers have been cut off from their livelihoods, thus paralysing even the small scale industrial fabric including medical drug factories, farmers have been deprived of their right to cultivate their lands and even supply their farms with cattle and bird feed and the sick do not have access to medical care. Administrative detention and even shooting was carried out if civilians were found during curfew hours looking out of their windows or on the roofs of their houses. A series of other oppressive measures are enforced including the sudden prevention of several West Bank citizens from crossing the bridge back into the West Bank from Jordan. Hence the daily life of our people in the occupied territories has been reduced to a large prison camp which far exceeds in its harshness the Nazi prison camps.

Our committee sees absolutely no justification for imposing such measures which are in direct contradiction with the Geneva Convention and the Security Council resolutions which compel the occupier to treat civilians under occupation in a civilised and humane manner.

Although we believe that our appeal to the U.N. to do its utmost to ensure Israeli abidance with the Geneva Convention and Security Council resolutions is useless, because of the overwhelming dominance of the USA over the United Nations, we feel that we should put on record a tragic example of the futility of the United Nations in relation to the just grievances of the Third World countries and particularly in the cases which affect the American-Israeli alliance.

Ibrahim Bakr Ibrahim (Attorney at Law),
Chairman, Committee for Palestinian Deportees.

Features

Through the eyes of a peace maker

By Serene Halasa

AMMAN — She is a twenty-two-year-old girl full of life and hope and with a mission she believes she has to do. A native German, Silke Hottmann, left everything behind and joined the Gulf peace camp armed only with her faith in God, and a strong feeling that she "had to go there (Iraq)." In an interview with the Jordan Times the young activist said she felt she had to do something since the outbreak of the crisis back in September. "I have many American friends who are soldiers stationed in Germany. When the deployment of American troops started many of them did not want to go because they believed that this war was not for the good of the people it was only for oil, power, and money," Hottmann said. She also added that those who did not want to go were left no other choice, and "those who objected were handcuffed and shipped to the Gulf against their will." "Many of those soldiers don't want to fight. For example black soldiers don't want to go to war for the sake of America because they

are treated very badly there," she said. "I have an American female soldier friend who is divorced with a twelve-year-old daughter, when she was called to duty she had no choice but to take her daughter with her," she said. "There are other similar cases such as those families who are both in the military and who have children and don't know what to do about it," she added. Hottmann's mission started when she read about the Gulf peace camp in American military newspaper, "Stars and Stripes." "I called the people and told them I wanted to join this peace camp. A few days later they called me and I left everything behind — school, work, family and went to the camp," she said. On Jan. 6, Hottmann arrived at the location of the peace camp on the Kuwait-Saudi border. On Jan. 17, the day of the first air raid on Iraq, the activists were relocated to Al-Rashid Hotel in downtown Baghdad. "The Iraqi officials felt responsible for us and advised us to move," she said. Hottmann stayed in Iraq till Feb. 1, when she was forced to leave with the

rest of the peace activists. In an honest and touching way, Hottmann started telling the story of her unforgettable experience in Baghdad. "The first day of bombing it was very terrible for me. It took me an hour before I realised that it was a real war," she said. "I sat in the shelter with diplomats, some Iraqi families and members of the peace camp, holding hands, sharing food, talking, and listening to the prayer that was on the radio," she added. A few days later, Hottmann ventured out of the shelter and accompanied some journalists on a tour around Baghdad. "I saw the communication building a bit damaged, one hotel was destroyed and so was a shopping centre," she said. "During the following air raids the communications building was targeted again. I think that reporters leaked the story out and that is why it was targeted again and this time was totally destroyed," she added. Hottmann recalled her trip alone and her interaction with the Iraqis, the first after the attacks had started, and said: "There was no resentment towards me. They accepted me

100 per cent." "One night while we were in the shelter, we organised a concert, where everybody was required to sing a song from their country. When it was the turn of the Americans to sing, the Iraqis encouraged them and there was no sign of resentment," she said. She also added that the Iraqis had resigned themselves to the reality of war and experienced amusement at how well they dealt with the situation. "People are not unhappy or angry. Feelings are running high in support of their government, and their president. I believe that this is what keeps them going," she said. During her tour Hottmann met a 22-year-old Iraqi man, standing in the rubble of what used to be his home. "When journalists asked him how he felt about the destruction of his house he said that he had lived in this house since he was a child but that he felt he had to offer a sacrifice to (President) Saddam Hussein and to his country and that this house meant nothing because it could be replaced in the future," she recalled. "This strong feeling of total support for the president and the

Iraqi homeland was evident among people. I felt it is a genuine and true feeling," she said. "This war has nothing to do with justice or freeing Kuwait because if you want to free Kuwait you don't hit Baghdad and when you want to free Kuwait you don't kill Iraqis," she said. With a surge of emotion Hottmann said that her mission was to go back to Baghdad and to film civilian sites and casualties caused by the American-led bombardment on Iraq. "I want to make a film and send copies of it all over the world. There are many people who want to help the Iraqis and this film will motivate them further," she said. Presently, Hottmann is working with the Jordanian General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) to organise the shipment of food and medicine to Iraq. She is waiting for a visa from the Iraqi government to go back to Iraq to start with the film. "I feel that this war is waged against the people of Iraq and not the military. This film will prove it," she concluded.

Geneva Conventions permit Iraq's war ruses

By Claude Regis
Reuter

GENEVA — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein may not be everyone's idea of a knight in shining armour but not all the tricks he has resorted to in the Gulf war so far are dirty.

Some are admissible under international war laws and are as old as the Trojan horse, which the Greek army used to infiltrate and conquer Troy after a 10-year siege in about the 12th century BC. Iraq has said it would send captured allied servicemen to strategic sites, effectively using them as human shields to deter enemy fire. This is strictly prohibited by international war treaties which Baghdad is pledged to observe.

But to deploy aircraft, missile launchers and tanks to induce the allied air forces into thinking they are hitting the real thing is accepted as a normal war ruse. In the early days of the Gulf war, allied aircraft are believed to have destroyed a number of such targets made of wood and other materials supplied to Iraq by specialised Western firms. Using decoys and other ruses is as old as war itself. In his "art of warfare," written 2,300 years ago, Chinese strategist Sun Tzu wrote: "all wars are based on ruse."

The Geneva Conventions of 1949, a set of rules designed to make war less cruel, make it quite clear there is nothing morally or legally wrong with Iraq's ploys.

"Ruses of war are not prohibited," states article 37 of a protocol to the treaties. It defines them as acts intended to mislead an adversary but which infringe no rule of international law. It cites as examples the use of camouflage, decoys, mock operations and misinformation. But the same article of the Geneva Convention prohibits what it calls "acts of perfidy." Misuse of the enemy's emblems and that of the red cross or red crescent is also banned. So is "the use of the flags or the military emblems, insignia or uniforms of adverse parties while engaging in attacks or in order to shield, favour, protect or impede military operations."

The use of a red cross ambulance by a Lebanese command in 1985 during one of many bloody episodes of Lebanon's civil war was a clear example of perfidy. It was denounced as such by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at the time.

"The protocol is based largely on century-old unwritten laws," says Jean-Philippe Lavy, a legal expert with the ICRC which monitors compliance with the Geneva Conventions. The historical background goes as far back as the middle ages and codes of honour which set rigid rules when knights clashed in

tournaments. A 14th century Arab classic on military strategy gives the following advice: "don't hesitate to use ruse in war because it enables you to reach your objective in a more certain manner than in a bloody, close combat battle." Closer to our era, Prussian general and military theoretician Carl von Clausewitz, who fought Napoleon's armies, wrote: "despite the changes the great art of war has undergone since the Greeks the term of strategy still evokes ruse." What the protocol says, basically, is that the law of armed conflict requires a basic minimum of fairness on the part of the combatants, Lavy says. Many States, including Iraq itself, have not signed the document. "But most have pledged to abide by its provisions," he added. The line can be thin between what constitutes an act of perfidy and what can be considered an acceptable ruse under war laws. During Hitler's 1944 offensive in the Ardennes region of France in World War II, German soldiers brought up in the United States and wearing U.S. uniforms were parachuted behind allied lines. Their mission: to give false indications on German troop movements to the allies. They were unmasked and sentenced to heavy prison terms by a U.S. military court, but cleared after appealing. They had committed an act of perfidy by wearing enemy uniforms. But no violence was used and the appeal court ruled that theirs was a misinformation mission, an acceptable ruse, rather than an act of war.

Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

There was no definite information on whether all or any of these leaders would attend this week's meeting in Amman.

"At this point it is too sensitive to disclose names," the source told the Jordan Times.

According to PLO sources, Mr. Arafat had also been in touch with several world leaders and politicians over the past week in a bid to secure a ceasefire in the Gulf war.

What remained uncertain Monday was how the initiative might proceed in light of Iraq's position that it would continue to fight to the last while remaining ready to enter "unconditional peace negotiations if the U.S. stopped interfering with Arab affairs."

In Tunis, Iraqi Deputy Premier Saddam Hammadi said Baghdad was ready to study any call for an "unconditional" ceasefire in the war.

"If any part, or the aggressor, asked for an unconditional end to hostilities, we would study it and would quickly say whether we would accept or not," Dr. Hammadi told a news conference.

Agencies said Mr. Arafat said in an interview published Monday that the Gulf war could reach the point of no return within a week, ending all hopes of a peaceful settlement.

The PLO chairman was quoted as saying allied bombing was wrecking Iraq's infrastructure so thoroughly that President Saddam would soon find no reason to end the war.

Midwest Mirror, a London-based newsletter, quoted Mr. Arafat as saying: "The (President Saddam) would tell you, 'why should I stop? I have nothing to lose.' But the PLO chief also reiterated an earlier forecast that Iraq could hold out for three years if the war continues."

"There is perhaps a maximum of a week left before Iraq reaches the point of no return," Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying.

Mr. Arafat also was quoted as saying that missiles were being launched into Iraq from U.S. submarines by the allied command says.

"These are based on southern Palestine, in Naqib, from which mis-

siles are being launched at western Iraq," Mr. Arafat told the newsletter. "That is what made them (the allies) claim that missiles were being launched from U.S. submarines in the Red Sea."

"They think there is military ignorance among the Arabs. The fact is there are no submarines with sea-to-land missiles except those that carry nuclear warheads," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Arafat also said Saudi Arabia accepted a PLO Gulf peace plan before war broke out but was forced to drop it by the United States.

Mr. Arafat said that Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan was referring to PLO proposals when he seemed to suggest in October that Kuwait could concede land to Iraq.

"I received a handwritten amendment to (our initiative) from Saudi Arabia so the initiative was accepted even in Saudi Arabia, and it was after that that Prince Sultan made his statement," Mr. Arafat said. "But the Americans moved immediately and exerted pressure on Saudi Arabia," he added.

The prince's remarks triggered U.S. concern that Saudi Arabia might withdraw from the alliance against Iraq. He later said they had been misinterpreted.

Saudi Arabia denied Mr. Arafat's statement later Monday.

Mr. Arafat also said everyone stained with Iraqi blood from the Gulf war will be punished.

"The mujahideen (holy fighters) will not be tolerant. Everyone whose hands have been stained with the blood of Iraq's heroes will be punished," he said in a speech broadcast from Algiers Sunday night on Voice of Palestine radio.

"These are glorious days for our Arab Nation, because we are witnessing an epic of legendary steadfastness by the Iraqi people and valiant army under the command of my brother, the knight Saddam," Mr. Arafat said.

"It is the mother of battles for the sake of the mother of causes, our beloved Palestine," he said in the speech.

Missile

(Continued from page 1)

a notice that there was an alarm in Israel at that very moment. We evidently had a Scud hit in Israel that took place only a few minutes ago," Mr. Arafat said. Mr. Arafat said he gave Mr. Bush "a report on the situation in Israel during the present Gulf

crisis," including the extent of casualties and damage from the missile attacks.

The United States has supplied Patriot missile crews to defend Israel, and Mr. Bush has warmly praised the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for its restraint against the Iraqi attacks.

Israel has said it will seek \$13 billion in aid from the United States to help repair damage from Iraq's attacks and to help cope with the flood of emigres from the Soviet Union.

Air war

(Continued from page 1)

raids and said the scale of destruction was greater than at any time during the Iran-Iraq war. However, Baghdad Radio said that more than 60,000 allied air sorties since the beginning of the war "have reaped nothing but disappointment and failure."

The order for 17-year-old male students to report to military conscription offices was the first change in the requirements for mandatory military service since Iraq lowered the age from 18 to 17 in January. But at the time the change applied only to 17 year olds who had dropped out of school.

In other developments: Iraq apparently has moved two captured U.S. soldiers — a man and woman — to Basra, a U.S. Defence Department official said.

The official said an Iraqi prisoner of war (POW) described taking the two Americans to Basra.

The Iraqi captive's description appeared to match that of Melissa Rathbun-Nealy, 30, the only female American prisoner of war, and David Lockett, 23, the Pentagon official said, confirming a report broadcast Sunday by a U.S. TV network.

The two Americans were declared missing on Feb. 1 after disappearing on a road in Saudi Arabia near the Kuwait border.

The Iraqi POW said he has been responsible for transferring the two Americans along with a group of Saudi prisoners to Bas-

ra. In the opening days of the Gulf war, Iraq said American prisoners were being moved to strategic sites likely to be hit by allied warplanes.

Bush

(Continued from page 1)

creating a link between the two situations is Saddam Hussein himself. The Iraqi position is creating a sort of connection between the permanence of the regime and the achievement of the goals set out by the United Nations.

Mr. Bush rejected as "misguided" the concern expressed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that the allies might go beyond their U.N. mandate and destroy Iraq.

"Our objective is to liberate Kuwait and to facilitate that by weakening communications and logistics of the aggressive military machine which is occupying Kuwait," he said. "The objectives which are irrelevant to that purpose are not being pursued."

Mr. Bush indicated Sunday that he saw no change in Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's attitude towards the Gulf war.

Mr. Bush said the Iraqi leader's address Sunday on Baghdad Radio showed he had no inclination towards withdrawing from Kuwait.

"I heard a summary of Saddam Hussein, I didn't hear a word about withdrawing from Kuwait," Mr. Bush told reporters at the White House. "Of course, that's what the whole world is waiting to hear."

In Bonn, John Major, on his first official visit to Germany since becoming Britain's prime minister, said Bonn and London were united in their support for the Gulf war and demands for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

"We both share a complete commitment to meeting all of the Security Council resolutions," Mr. Major said after two hours of talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

"It is now in the hands of Iraq and its president exclusively to restore peace as quickly as possible," Mr. Kohl told reporters in a brief news conference after their meeting.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher prepared to fly to the Middle East Tuesday to discuss the possibility of more German aid to countries affected by the Gulf war.

In other diplomatic efforts, Mr. Genscher's office announced he would meet with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati in Bonn on Feb. 18.

A ministry spokesman said their talks were expected to centre on the Gulf war and possibilities for a Middle East peace process after the conflict ends.

Mr. Genscher will meet in Cairo Tuesday with President Hosni Mubarak. On Wednesday, Mr. Genscher flies to Damascus to meet with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, and on Thursday he will be in Amman for talks with His Majesty King Hussein. Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam stressed Sunday that Syria remained irrevocably opposed to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, and said no initiative to end the war would succeed until Baghdad withdrew.

Mr. Khaddam, in his first speech since the war broke out Jan. 17, defended his country's stance against Iraq, saying that Syria could not side with the aggressor against the victim.

"Furthermore, (Syria) cannot accept the use of force as a principle in solving Arab difference," he said, adding that Iraq's alleged historical claim to Kuwait only served to trigger a whirlpool of bloody wars and conflicts in the region.

"No initiative will be successful until Iraq withdraws from Kuwait in line with Arab and international resolutions," he said, speaking at a meeting of the ruling Baath Party leadership in Damascus.

Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

their rotten blood," it added in an editorial.

Dr. Hammadi told Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi that Baghdad has chosen to fight, Libya's news agency JANA said Monday.

Colonel Qadhafi met with Dr. Hammadi in Libya Sunday night, JANA reported. Dr. Hammadi had flown to Libya from Amman.

JANA said Dr. Hammadi told the news agency that he had told Col. Qadhafi that "Iraq had opted for fighting and that it was ready to defend its sovereignty and its choices."

In the JANA dispatch, Dr. Hammadi was quoted as saying that "our situation following the aggression is strong, good and solid despite the civilian casualties inflicted upon us."

JANA said Dr. Hammadi departed from Libya from the coastal city of Benghazi at midday.

Bush's pre-emptive strike

By Laurence McQuillan
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President George Bush's new federal budget amounts to a pre-emptive strike against Democrats' hopes of the 1992 U.S. presidential campaign, with the Republican leader trying to counter "anticipated" political attacks.

In sending Congress a \$1.45-trillion spending plan for the 1992 financial year beginning Oct. 1, Bush is advertising a commitment to better education, improved housing and more money for the head start programme to help needy youth.

By trimming health-care subsidies for those earning more than \$25,000 a year, the budget seeks for the first time in Bush's presidency to counter the "fairness issue" the Democrats have used to portray Republicans as the "rich man's party" since the days of Bush's predecessor Ronald Reagan.

Since last week's State of the Union address and Monday's federal budget proposal, Bush has — as one congressional aide put it — "been busy out-democratizing the Democrats."

Robert Byrd, the liberal West Virginia Democrat who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee, said: "in some ways, the document the administration submitted re-

flects initiatives I've been championing for years."

Senior White House officials acknowledge privately that they are sensitive to the fact that Bush is expected to seek re-election to a second four-year term in November 1992.

"Once you pass the mid-way point (in a presidential term) the politics seem to heat up," one White House official said of the budget process.

Oddly, the 1992 campaign is slower getting started than recent ones. No major Democrat has declared candidacy or even started a real buildup, to declaration, possibly because Bush has enjoyed great popularity and there are so many political uncertainties.

All sides agree the outcome of the Gulf war and efforts to reverse the economic recession will be essential to determining the length of Bush's presidency.

As those factors unfold, he has been mapping out ways to deal with the other issues that will figure in the campaign.

In remarks to state governors on Monday, Bush stressed the need to enhance the quality of U.S. public education.

By stressing such issues, he "has begun to lay the groundwork for the 1992 election," said Stuart Eizenstat, the domestic policy adviser to former president Jimmy Carter,

the last Democrat in the White House.

"He has rhetorically embraced the agenda that the Democrats would like to have as a central feature of their 1992 campaign," Eizenstat said.

Stephen Wayne, a Georgetown University professor who specializes in electoral politics, agrees that the budget strategy takes account of the next presidential election.

"I think Bush is attempting to stake out a republican domestic position that demonstrates he's concerned about what life is like in the United States without having a high price tag on many of those programmes," Wayne said.

"Clearly, George Bush was elected because of the sense that things were pretty good in the United States and part of the criterion for his re-election will be those conditions."

Bush has tried to anticipate the Democrat's domestic policy attacks and deflect them — particularly accusations that he lacks a solid vision of how to make America better.

When Bush called in the State of the Union for out in the capital gains tax rate, a move Democrats call a giveaway to the rich, he hedged quickly by naming Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan to head a review of the proposal.

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Maradona calls truce with Napoli

IT MAY be too late to change the course of the season, but peace seems to have settled over the troubled Napoli Soccer Club.

"We've returned to reality," said Argentine ace Diego Maradona, who after being excluded from the Napoli roster in mid-week returned to the lineup Sunday to score twice on penalty kicks, propelling the Naples Club to a rousing 4-2 home victory against Parma.

"We've returned to the reality of the past seven years. When nobody left San Paolo unbowed. Law and order have been restored here in Naples."

Last year's first division champion, Napoli now has 19 points, and trails league-leaders Internazionale di Milan and Sampdoria of Genoa by nine.

Inter slipped past Torino 1-0 Sunday on Jurgen Klinsmann's 10th goal of the season. Sampdoria won 3-0 away from home against Bologna.

Juventus of Turin, which dined Cesena 3-0, and AC Milan, which drew 0-0 against Fiorentina, are in a second place tie with 27 points, one point behind the leaders.

Perhaps nothing short of a miracle can undo the disappointment that hangs over this year's Napoli. Eliminated from the European Champion's Cup at Moscow, out of the running for the first division title after just two months, rent by Maradona's demands to leave the club and his game of hide-and-seek with team officials, Napoli was a house divided.

Spirits had sunk so low that veteran goalkeeper Giovanni Galli, normally a prudent man, said he no longer felt any motivation to play for Napoli and expressed his wish to be released at the end of the season.

Galli's admission drew the ire of coach Alberto Bigon and many of his teammates, especially Brazilian striker Careca, who openly criticized the goalkeeper.

Against Parma, the entire team enjoyed a rare moment of

European soccer

euphoria. Maradona, who took a cortisone injection before the match to alleviate his chronic back pain, dictated the pace with brilliant passing and short, effective bursts of speed. Young midfielder Gianfranco Zola teamed with Maradona and Careca on the attack, stirring up memories of the "trident" of seasons past.

"I cleared up a lot of issues with Bigon," said Maradona after the match. "He told me that the team needed me, and I replied that I needed the team. From now on I only want to think about my teammates."

This is not the first time the Napoli captain has resolved to end his wicked ways. But Maradona gave proof of his newfound altruism when he insisted that Careca take Napoli's third penalty shot after referee Rosario Lo Bello whistled a hand violation against Parma stopper Luigi Apolloni.

On the penalty kick, Careca

beat fellow Brazilian Clandio Taffarel to bring the score to 4-1 Napoli. But instead of rushing to rejoice before the home fans, Careca raced the length of the field to snuff out any smoldering embers from his midweek dispute with Galli. The two teammates sealed the pact with an energetic handshake.

"Diego just kept on insisting that I take the shot," said the Brazilian. "I didn't want to. I told him that he was our penalty kicker. He wouldn't take no for an answer. But this is the team the way I want it. With no more misunderstandings."

Marseille recovers flair

In France, league champions Marseille recovered their flair with 1-0 victory at Paris St Germain, their first away win for nearly three months and first at the Paris club for 15 years.

"We're getting better and better every match," said Belgian coach Raymond Goethals, reassured ahead of next month's European Cup quarter-final clash against champions AC Milan.

"We were looking for something and I feel we have found it. We have played a simple and basic game, which led us to our best away match this season," midfielder Bernard Fardo added.

Marseille's recovery owed a lot of that to England's Chris Waddle, who even conquered the hostile Paris crowd.

In the first half, Waddle took advantage of a break in play to

shake hands with Paris St Germain's coach Henri Michel before juggling with the ball to the cheers of the spectators.

Halfway through the second half, he emulated Cameroon's Roger Milla with an impromptu rumba before kicking a corner which led defender Basile Boli to score the winner.

"Waddle was by far the best player on the pitch. Spectacular and relaxed. A virtuoso," the sports daily L'Equipe said Monday.

Atletico Madrid beats Real Valladolid

German midfielder star Bernd Schuster was the toast of the town in Madrid after two touches that brought Atletico a 2-0 win over Real Valladolid.

With a 0-0 draw looking certain six minutes from the end of a dreary game, Schuster lifted the gloom with a cracking 30-metre goal from a free kick and five minutes later sent through a perfect pass for Alfredo Santa to score the second.

"Schuster fixed it," was the verdict of a Madrid sports paper on a victory which kept Atletico in second place, three points behind leaders Barcelona.

"We had to sweat blood," said Schuster. "We showed we can still win even when we play badly."

Real Madrid slipped to 10 points off the pace in fourth place by dropping a point away to Real Mallorca.

Johnson wins 60-metre race in Osaka

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — Ben Johnson edged Cuba's Simon in a photo finish Monday to win the Yomiuri Chitose indoor track and field meet.

It was the second first-place finish in four starts this season for Johnson, who is trying to make a comeback after a two-year ban from track for failing a drug test at the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

Both Simon, the world indoor 60-metre champion at 6.52 in 1989, and Johnson were clocked at 6.64 seconds in the 60 Monday. lead throughout the race, appeared to have gotten a foot and possible a shoulder over the finish line first.

But after examining photos of the finish for about 30 minutes, judges ruled Johnson had won because his torso, the part of the body that counts, crossed the finish before Simon's.

Their announcement drew boos from some of the 12,000

fans at the Osaka Castle Hall.

"I thought he won," Johnson said. "It was a very tight race, but I think they made a good choice."

Simon, however, filed a protest and, after it was rejected, said he was unhappy with the result.

"This was a very important race for me," he said. "I did very well and I think I won. I am very sad that it comes to this."

Johnson, who was stripped of his gold medal and world record in the 100 metre after the Seoul Olympic Games, began his comeback on Jan. 11. He finished second in his first two races and won the third.

The 29-year-old Canadian sprinter, who won this meet three years straight beginning in 1985, earned roughly \$100,000 for Monday's race.

Also Monday, world record holder Javier Sotomayor of Cuba set a new meet record of 2.34 metres (7 feet, 8

inches), beating Romania's Sorin Matei, who cleared 2.31 (7-7). The former record was 2.31 metres (7-7) set by Swedish jumper Patrik Sjöberg.

Though Sotomayor's best jump in four indoor meets so far this year, it was well below his indoor record of 2.43 metres (7-11½), set in 1989.

The lanky 23-year-old is also the only high jumper to clear 8 feet (2.44 metres), also in 1989. "I need to concentrate on my technique," Sotomayor said through an interpreter. "The surface was very good here but I felt some discomfort in my left leg."

America's Evelyn Ashford came from behind in the women's 60 metres to defeat world record holder Nellie Cooman of the Netherlands. Ashford finished the race in 7.22 seconds, while Cooman, who set the world record of 7.00 in 1989, ran a close 7.25.

Coach: Bubka can still go higher

MOSCOW (R) — Sergei Bubka, who broke his own pole vault world indoor record at the weekend, is confident he can jump still higher and will probably dominate this year's competitions, a Soviet coach said Monday.

"He is well-prepared now and ... if all conditions are right, he can jump still higher," said Vadim Zelenykhonok, chief coach of the Soviet athletics team.

"There is no doubt Bubka will be one of the main contenders for all this year's top competitions. He surely thinks so."

Bubka himself was unavailable for comment.

Bubka soared to 6.08 metres Saturday at a meeting in Volgograd, bettering the indoor record of 6.05. The vault was two centimetres higher than his world outdoor record of 6.06.

After setting the indoor record in Moscow last March he had a very unimpressive season. He entered a handful of competitions and showed only a shadow of the form that had made him the undisputed world number one pole vaulter for five years.

Capriati begins 2nd year on tour

CHICAGO (AP) — Ninth-ranked Jennifer Capriati begins her second year on the pro circuit in elite company — she's one of four in the Virginia Slims of Chicago tournament's 28-player field with a first-round bye.

The 14-year-old Capriati, seeded fourth, will take the courts Tuesday against the winner of the tourney's first match Monday, which pits Robin White against second-year professional Tami Whittinger.

White, ranked 66th in the world, faces 81st-ranked Whittinger in one of five first-round matches at the University of Illinois at Chicago Pavilion. Whittinger was the top U.S. collegiate player in 1989 and reached the quarterfinals of the Chicago event last year.

The only seeded player to see action Monday, France's Nathalie Tauziat, rated 16th in the

world, meets 51st-ranked Elizabeth Smylie, Australia.

Tauziat, seeded eighth, also made it to the 1990 Chicago Slims quarterfinals.

In other first-round action, Ann Grossman plays Gigi Fernandez, Anne Smith faces Mary Lou Daniels, and Pam Shriver takes on Meredith McGrath.

The winner of the Shriver-McGrath match has to battle the tourney's 10-time champion, Martina Navratilova, in a second-round match Wednesday.

The top-seeded Navratilova, getting an opening-round bye, is ranked third in the world.

Shriver, rated fourth in 1987, is now down to 42nd, a fall in the ratings mainly due to injuries.

Other byes were given to the second seed, Katerina Maleeva, and third seeded Jana Novotna. Maleeva's first action comes against the winner of the

Grossman-Fernandez match and Novotna gets her first test against the winner of a match Tuesday between Helen Kelesi and Andrea Strnadova, an 18-year-old newcomer from Czechoslovakia.

The \$350,000 tournament runs through Sunday.

Cahill beats Gilbert for San Francisco title

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Australian Darren Cahill won his second singles title in seven years as a professional by defeating Brad Gilbert 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 in the championship match of the Volvo-San Francisco Tournament Sunday.

Playing a strong serve-and-volley game, Cahill, 25, survived the assortment of spins, lobs and changes of pace thrown at him by Gilbert, seeded third in the tournament and ranked 10th in the world.

The match turned after Gilbert lost his cool over a line call in the 10th game of the third set. Serving at 30-30 down 4-5, Gilbert delivered a first serve that was called wide by the linesperson. Gilbert screamed, "No. No.

God, that was inside the line," then whacked the net with his racket in disgust when it was ruled the call would stand.

Cahill, the no. 6 seed, then set up match point with a cross-court forehand winner, and took the match with one of his best stands of the match at the net.

The Australian made two great gets, one with a forehand volley, then second with his backhand. On Gilbert's third try at a passing shot, Cahill dumped a backhand volley into the forehand court beyond Gilbert's reach for his first singles championship in nearly three years.

Cahill, who defeated John McEnroe in the third round and his Davis Cup teammate Wally Masur to reach the finals, earned

\$32,400 for his victory in the indoor tournament played at the San Francisco Civic Auditorium. Cahill, ranked 48th in the world, won his only other singles title in 1988 on clay in Gstaad, Switzerland.

Gilbert, who defeated top-seeded Andre Agassi in the semifinals, earned \$19,090 as the tournament's runner-up. Gilbert, from nearby Piedmont, California, won this tournament in 1989.

Cahill started quickly, taking the first set in 29 minutes. He broke Gilbert's serve in the first game and went ahead 5-2 by breaking Gilbert again in the seventh game.

Gilbert recovered in the second set, breaking Cahill in the second game to take a 2-0 lead. He then held on, winning game five after

surviving three break points. In the ninth game of the set, Gilbert went ahead 40-15 and then needed five set points before evening the match at one set apiece.

"I'm very excited to win," said Cahill. "It's probably the best I've ever played. I served and volleyed well and didn't make many unforced errors."

"All the work I've done finally paid off for me today," he added.

"He played well today," said Gilbert. "All week long I hadn't played someone who consistently came in to the net. He kept me off balance."

"I was unlucky in the third set," Gilbert said. "I wasn't able to come up with the shots when I needed to."

At 40, U.S. track star enjoying run at the mile

NEW YORK (AP) — Rod Dixon has ridden the track rollercoaster up by competing in race from 800 metres to the marathon. Now he has taken the plunge back down to the mile — and he's enjoying the dizzying, exhilarating ride.

Dixon, who turned 40 in July, is competing in the Runner's World Masters Mile circuit.

In his U.S. Masters Mile debut on Feb. 1 in the Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden, Dixon went under the world indoor record with a time of 4 minutes, 13.32 seconds, but had to settle for second place, behind Wilson Waigwa of Kenya, who clocked 4:13.05.

That supplanted the record of Canadian Dave Stewart, who had run 4:15.17 last year.

Dixon and Waigwa met again a week ago in the Mobil 1 Invitational at Fairfax, Virginia, and again a record fell. Larry Ahnberg broke the U.S. Masters Mile record, winning in 4:16.00, while Waigwa finished second and Dixon, bothered by a tendon injury to his left leg suffered during warmups, was eighth.

Dixon is still competing because of his genuine enthusiasm for running.

"I'm in it because I love my sport," the New Zealander said. "There's something exciting happening in masters running. It's just like (the seniors) golf (tour). Take Bob Charles (also of New Zealand) and Jack Nicklaus. They don't play for the money. They play because they love to play."

Dixon also is running because he has "a mission" — to become the first masters mile to break four minutes.

"I was desperate to do it last year, but I made mistakes," he said. "I had hoped to make history last summer."

"I had my bags packed to go to Oxford, England, and run on the track where Roger Bannister had made history (running the first sub-four minute mile in 1954)."

"But I got pneumonia. The illness wiped out my summer. I came back in the fall, and my desire for a four-minute mile had not diminished."

Dixon made his masters mile debut in October and best Waigwa by 14 seconds on an uphill road race in San Francisco. But Waigwa, a three-time Olympian, still holds the world outdoor masters record of 4:05.39.

Dixon already has some sub-four minute miles to his credit — but in his younger days, when he was one of the world's most diversified runners. His fastest was 3:53.6. He is the only runner in history to break four minutes for the mile and 2:09 for the marathon, having won the dramatic 1983 New York City Marathon in 2:08:59 by overtaking Britain's Geoff Smith in the final 385 yards.

The post-race scene provided some memorable moments. After crossing the finish line in Central Park, Dixon fell to his knees and kissed the ground, then wildly waved both hands into the air. Smith collapsed.

"It was the greatest thrill of my life," Dixon said at the time. "It was the best executed race I had ever run."

On reconsideration now, he puts winning the bronze medal at 1,500 metres in the 1972 Olympics ahead of that achievement.

"Going into the Olympics, I was ranked 43rd (in the world in the 1,500), he said. "I figured what chance did I have of getting through my first heat when they were only taking the top two and Jim Ryun and Kip Keino were both in that heat?"

But Ryun fell and Dixon moved ahead, and eventually, reached the final.

"Just to get to the final was unbelievable," said the personable Dixon.

Four years later, in the 1976 games, Dixon experienced his biggest disappointment by not winning the gold medal in the 5,000.

"I should have won it," he said. "None of those guys (in the final) had beaten me before the Olympics and none of them beat me after."

However, Dixon did not run a smart race, running wide instead of toward the inside of the track and wound up fourth.

"After that, I said, 'could I

have that one back, please?' he said, laughing.

Running the mile in under four minutes again will not be easy, Dixon said.

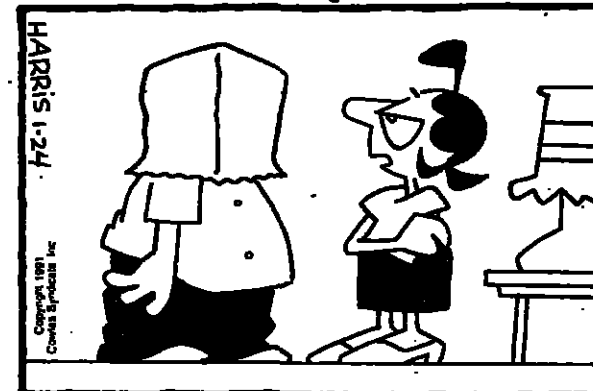
"I think 1:10 is well within my range," he said. "But four minutes? I think that will be hard... a lot harder than I first imagined."

"I know how to race, but the body has forgotten. I've been working 16 months to get that old sparkle back... that old fire."

Dixon, a four-time Olympian and ranked no. 1 in the world at 5,000 metres in 1975, has no ambitions to return to marathoning.

Horoscope not received

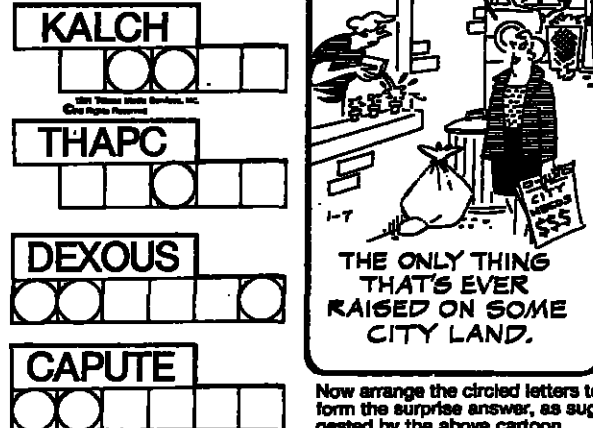
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Women like mysterious men, Stanley. You're not mysterious, you're just weird."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

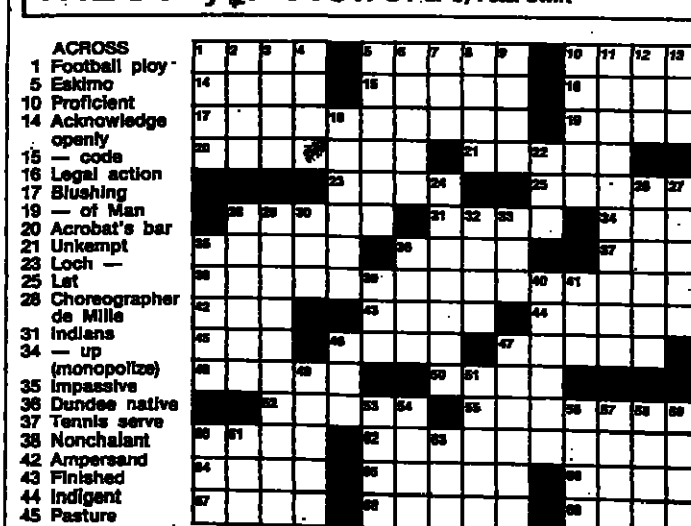


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: ROUSE ELATE VENDOR LEDGER
Answer: Some people, when they "hold" a conversation — NEVER LET GO

THE Daily Crossword by Peter Swift



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Saturday's Puzzle Solver:

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMAR HIRSCH
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GIVE ONE, TAKE A FEW

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 6 3
♥ Q 3
♦ Q 8 2
♣ A K J 8 2

EAST
♠ A 9 7
♥ K J 10 9 8 7 6
♦ J 6 4
♣ A 10 9 3

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 4
♥ A 5 4 2
♦ K 7 5
♣ Q

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Dbl 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠
One of the quickest and most accurate cardplayers we know is Britain's John Collings. It took him all of five seconds to find the winning line on this deal.

The auction was natural. West's double of two hearts was for penalties, showing long hearts, which suggested North would have no

wasted values in that suit. Hence, South's slightly aggressive jump to four spades.

West led the nine of clubs, won in the closed hand. The king of spades lost to the ace, dummy playing the six, and back came the six of hearts. Since that was almost surely a singleton, declarer rose with the ace. Everything pointed to East being long in the minors. Also, East had to have the ace of diamonds for the penalty double. That was all the information Collings needed to come up with a spectacular play.

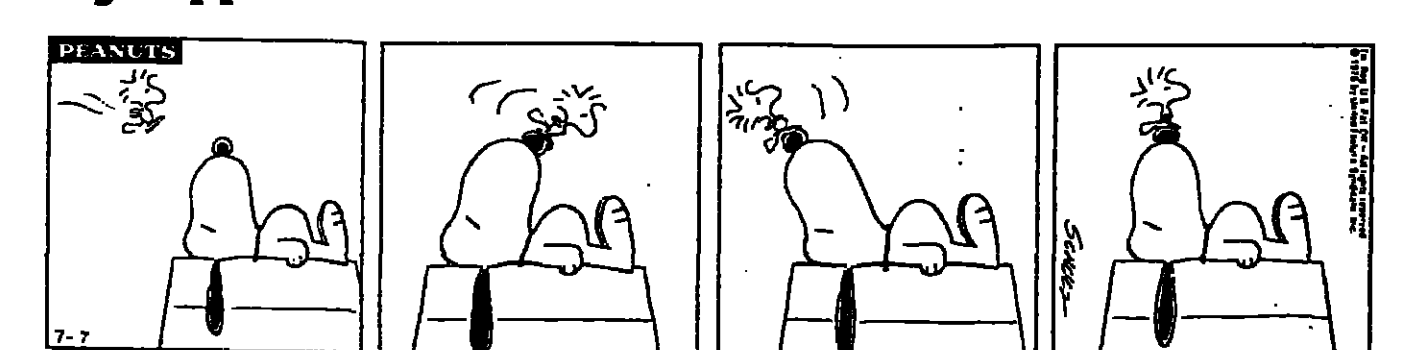
Declarer cashed the queen of trumps, to which both defenders followed and on which the table's eight was jealously. Then came the four of trumps!

To everyone's surprise, East had won a second trump trick, but having the lead was not an unalloyed pleasure. With nothing but minor-suit cards left, East was forced to give declarer access to dummy. If the defender chose to exit with a club, declarer would get four discards on the table's clubs and lose only one diamond. A diamond exit would give declarer three club tricks and two diamonds. Either way, 10 tricks were sure.

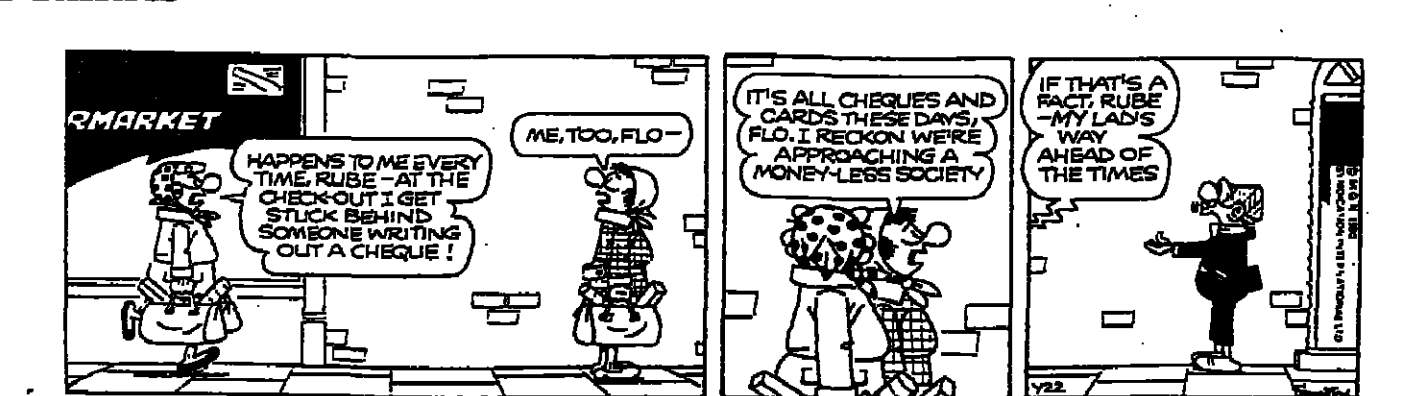
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



U.N. official: Asian export economies face trouble in 1990s

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Developing Asian economies that boomed in the 1980s face bleak prospects in the early 1990s due partly to the Gulf war and the breakdown of multilateral trade talks, a senior U.N. official said Monday.

"Although our region's trade performance in the 1980s was certainly impressive, prospects for the early 1990s now appear considerably less promising, and the region's exports may well face a difficult period ahead," said the official, S. Kibria.

Kibria was addressing the first session of the five-day biennial meeting of the committee on trade of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. High-level delegations from dozens of countries attended.

Kibria, the U.N. commission's main representative, said the economies of the region's developing countries grew an average of nearly seven per cent annually in the 1980s. In current U.S. dollars, their exports grew from \$158 billion in 1980 to \$350 billion in 1989, a gain of about 121 per cent.

But expectations for the 1990s have been "thoroughly shaken" by the Gulf war and the failure in

Brussels in December of the Uruguay Round of trade talks, he said.

Asian countries had hoped the talks would produce a more free-trade oriented general agreement on tariffs and trade, which lays down rules for international trade.

Kibria said the Gulf crisis already has hurt regional economies by raising the price of imported oil, disrupting trade with the Middle East and producing a sharp drop in remittances from Asian workers in the Middle East.

There also was the high cost of repatriating those workers, Kibria said.

"The loss of remittances alone may total several billion dollars, representing a substantial cutoff of such funds for the main Asian labour exporters: Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Philippines, but also being felt in Thailand, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Vietnam," he said.

He said a preliminary study showed the aggregate current account deficit for 1990 for the developing Asia-Pacific region might increase from \$25 billion to \$50 billion.

World wool prices may plunge by 50%

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — World wool prices were expected to plunge after Australia suspended its floor-price system Monday in an effort to help the industry survive its worst crisis.

The decision means wool will be sold freely until June 30, allowing textile traders to set the price. The government will determine in April what to do when the suspension ends.

Australia is the world's largest wool producer and accounts for 70 per cent of the export market, so prices appear certain to fall dramatically. Analysts expect them to plunge by up to 50 per cent or more.

"It means that no one knows where the market will go to," said John Fallon, New Zealand's agriculture minister. "We may well see a substantial drop in wool prices over the next few weeks."

It is Australia's latest move to save its ailing wool industry.

Earlier efforts included cutting the floor price, increasing in sheep farmers' self-taxation programme and a decision last November to slaughter up to 20 million of the country's 170 million sheep.

Wool has been one of Australia's biggest export earners, bringing in some 6 billion dollars (\$1.7 billion at current exchange rates) in the 1988-89 fiscal year. But high interest rates and a sharp drop in demand have combined to cut that by about half, with little sign of an upturn.

The government suspended wool sales for three weeks on Feb. 1. New Zealand, another major producer, postponed two auctions the following week, citing market uncertainty created by Australia's suspension.

"If there is to be any form of reserve-price scheme from July 1, it will be self-funding, and the floor price will be set conservatively against then-prevailing market prices," Primary Industries

and Energy Minister John Kerin said in a statement.

The Australian Wool Corp., the government-backed marketing body, has been supporting the price of wool above an average 7 dollars per kilogramme (\$2.18 per pound) by buying at auctions each week.

But overseas buyers largely were staying out of the market. The Wool Corp. was forced to buy up to three-quarters of the wool offered, running up a debt of 2.8 billion dollars (\$2.2 billion) and building a mountainous backlog of some 1.8 million bales.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics predicted last month that with no change in policy, the stockpile could reach 5.7 million bales by the end of June.

"Next year is going to be very, very tough," Kerin said. "But in terms of all the estimates available to us, the stockpile will be down to about 1.1, 1.6 million bales by '95-96."

The stockpile stood at 10,000 bales in July 1989, but it grew exponentially as China, the Soviet Union and Japan — Australia's biggest wool customers — virtually deserted the market.

The Soviet and Chinese left the market due to their internal problems, while there was no clear reason for Japan's pull-out.

The Soviets owed 81 million dollars (\$65 million) for wool as of last November, when they signed a bilateral credit facility worth up to 525 million dollars (\$100 million) in Australian wool and wheat if they paid the wool bill. It is unclear if they have paid the debt.

Last May 31, Kerin slashed the floor price from 8.70 dollars per kilogramme (\$3.08 per pound). That level was reached when the industry was at its peak, drawing farmers into what was a very lucrative operation.

Israel cancels agora

TEL AVIV (AP) — A special cabinet economy committee decided Sunday to cancel Israel's smallest coin of the one agora denomination since production costs exceeded its value, Israel television reported.

The decision will take effect April 1 and Israeli citizens will be allowed to change agora coins into coins of other denominations for three years, it said.

The golden-coloured, tiny one agora coin, decorated with the image of an ancient vessel, was first introduced five years ago and is now worth about one-half of its initial value, the television reported.

Moreover, production of one agora coin actually costs three agorot, it said.

One hundred agorot comprise an Israeli shekel, the country's unit of currency worth \$0.5.

The Bank of Israel, which directs Israel's financial policy, first began to issue agora coins in 1980.

The one agora coin currently used was part of the country's 1985 revaluation plan.

Egypt hopes to become regional financial centre

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, which has found a new world standing because of its stance on the Gulf crisis, hopes economic reforms will turn Cairo into a financial centre for the Middle East, a senior government banker said Sunday.

"We are aiming to transfer Cairo into a global financial market," Mohammed Hafez, chairman of Bank Misr, one of Egypt's big four state-owned banks, told Reuters in an interview.

Bankers say Cairo, a key Arab partner in the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq, would like to replace Bahrain as the region's international financial market.

Two Gulf wars in a decade and a decline in oil prices have reduced Bahrain's attraction as a banking centre. In addition, Egypt has good communications, a plentiful supply of cheap labour and a broader economy, they say.

The government last month freed interest rates as part of IMF-prescribed reforms — a move Hafez said brought Egypt closer to its goal.

Hafez, chairman of a committee of bankers that until now has set daily exchange rates for the

Egyptian pound, said free trading in foreign currencies would come into effect very soon.

"Hopefully this will be the last step to let market forces play the main role in deciding the value of the pound, in terms of availability of foreign currency and exchange rate stability," he said.

Free currency trade was a key demand of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in almost three years of negotiations with Egypt on a standby agreement that will also allow debt relief.

The accord would release fresh credit and allow a write-off and rescheduling of part of its \$36 billion foreign debt.

Egyptian negotiators left for Washington Sunday for more talks with IMF officials.

Under the new currency trading system, individuals will be able to buy and sell foreign currency freely at 38 banks.

"No details of any individual transactions are required to be reported to any authority in Egypt," Hafez said.

Under the old system foreign currency could be purchased only for authorised transactions and

the exchange rate was fixed artificially.

Banks will be free to set their own exchange rates for the first time — a move expected to wipe out black market dealings.

"I cannot imagine how a black market could survive. After the new system is implemented there will be no black market," Hafez said.

"The only drawback is that people will try to test the system at the beginning," he said, adding that one hour of dealings was enough to stabilise the market.

The dollar currently trades officially at 2.96 pounds against a black market rate of about 3.10 pounds.

Dollar earnings from cotton and oil exports and the Suez Canal will be exchanged in a so-called primary market at no more than five per cent below the free market rate. But they could keep the dollars to finance imports of raw materials.

The primary market would disappear "as soon as the free market is normalised. It will take a few months... no more than a year," he said.

Algeria moves towards convertibility of dinar

ALGIERS (R) — As a first step towards convertibility of its national currency, Algeria will soon allow citizens to exchange limited amounts of dinars for hard currency at the official bank rate.

The scheme should also help mop up some of the more than 40 billion dinars officials say circulates on the black market outside the banking sector.

Algeria has long creditors and the International Monetary Fund it will begin moving toward dinar convertibility this year. The government plans convertibility for imports of basic necessities such as food and medicine by year end, officials and diplomats said.

Convertibility, accompanied by a dramatic, ongoing devaluation of the dinar, is at the heart of reforms aimed at moving Algeria toward a market economy after two decades of central economic planning.

The central bank dinar rate has plunged to 16.5 to the dollar Sunday from 12.5 at the start of the year and eight one year ago, an effective devaluation in 12 months of 52 per cent.

Diplomats said the central bank appeared to be aiming for a rate of 17 to 18 dinars to the dollar, after which it might stabilise. The black market rate has remained more or less stable over the past month at around 30 to the dollar.

The effective devaluation of the dinar is designed to curb imports, by making them more expensive, and thus boost the country's balance of payments surplus. It is also expected to enable the country to borrow more.

Algeria desperately needs hard currency to meet service payments on a \$25 billion foreign debt. The country depends on oil and gas revenue for almost all its foreign exchange, and stands to suffer from a sudden fall in world oil prices since the start of the Gulf war on Jan. 17.

But the officials said the devaluation could also fuel inflation by making imported goods, including raw materials and spare parts used in local industries, more expensive.

German currency frauds cost \$1 b

BERLIN (R) — Currency frauds involving the economic merger of east and west Germany last year have cost the taxpayer at least 1.5 billion marks (\$1 billion), Berlin justice authorities said Monday.

Justice authority spokeswoman Jutta Limbach said most frauds involved subsidised exchange payments for bogus exports to eastern Europe under former East Germany's trade system.

It gave exporters a subsidised mark rate for the national rubble currency to help inefficient East German companies cope with the switch from a command to free market economy.

"We still don't have any idea how large all these frauds are," Limbach said.

Other frauds discovered by a team of 10 investigators including illegal property deals and currency transfers.

Jewellery demand gives comfort to shell-shocked gold market

LONDON (R) — The Gulf war has proved spectacularly that gold is no longer a safe haven, and just about the only factor preventing its price from plunging is buoyant demand for jewellery, bullion market analysts say.

But with recession looming, even that prop could soon fall. "People are less wealthy and don't want to go spending money on anything, so demand for jewellery is likely to fall," said Robert Weinberg, head of mining company analysts at London brokers James Capel.

Western world gold demand for jewellery soared to 1,850 tonnes last year, well above mine production of 1,700 tonnes.

"Lots of people made money in the 1980s... this resulted in strong equity markets and jewellery demand," Weinberg said.

"But bracelets and necklaces are luxuries and, like video cameras and foreign holidays, they suffer first in a recession," another analyst said.

"If the world slumps into a general recession in 1991, gold jewellery buying will slow after surging growth in recent years," Philip Klapwijk of Goldfields Mineral Services said.

North America and European investors, repeatedly stung by unexpected dives in the gold price, have deserted the market in droves and are in no hurry to return.

Investor buying has held up well, though, in the Middle East and Asia where high carat items are sought after.

The worsening Soviet crisis may encourage local people to hoard gold, but this was not having any visible market impact. Gold, for thousands of years a store of wealth, soared to a record \$850 an ounce in 1980 on

surging oil prices, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the Iranian hostage crisis.

But a \$50 plunge to around \$360 an ounce after the outbreak of the Gulf war left its reputation as a safe haven in tatters and it had difficulty getting above \$370 in the first week of February.

"If you were worried about the safety of your wealth in the 1970s, you filled your pockets with (South African) Kruggerands and Kilogramme bars," Weinberg said.

"Now you can cover any risk you like through futures and options... you don't need gold as a proxy," he noted.

Gold now must compete with all kinds of other goods and financial instruments for investors' attention.

Analysts said the huge growth in the mutual fund or unit trust industry in the last few years was another sign of a switch in investor attitudes.

The gold market is delicately poised. Some analysts see the price falling to \$340, the four-year low reached in June last year, while others see it staging a gradual recovery.

"The gold price is bobbing about like a cork on a stormy sea," said Weinberg.

"The price pendulum is slowly losing its amplitude... it is fluctuating less and less around a long-term average of \$370 to \$380," said Michael Spriggs of S. G. Warburg Securities.

The more prices fall from current levels, the greater the threat to high cost miners of the metal, particularly in South Africa, said Spriggs.

"The contraction in production is happening already," he noted. Australian output has hit a plateau with the onset of a gold tax and North American mining groups are looking closely at new projects. "We think Western world mine production is going to peak this year at just over 1,700 tonnes," analyst Spriggs said.

The Soviet gold industry, which produced about 275 tonnes last year, also has problems. "Operations there have been hopelessly under-capitalised for years," said Spriggs.

"Gold is just going through a bad patch, but will have its day again," said a mining company analyst. "It has fallen so far with the dollar so weak... in Swiss francs, marks and yen, it's a real bargain," he added.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, February 11, 1991	
Central Bank official rates	
U.S. dollar	662.0
Pound Sterling	1315.9
Deutschemark	454.1
Swiss franc	532.4
French franc	133.4
Japanese yen (for 100)	518.0
Dutch guilder	405.5
Scandinavian crown	121.7
Italian lira (for 100)	60.4
Belgian franc (for 10)	220.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.9910/20	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1570/80	Canadian dollar
	1.4543/50	Deutschemark
	1.6395/6405	Dutch guilders
	1.2425/32	Swiss francs
	29.94/99	Belgian francs
	4.9525/75	French francs
	1094/1095	Italian lire
	127.45/55	Japanese yen
	5.4650/4700	Swedish crowns
	5.6970/20	Norwegian crowns
	5.6050/6100	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	367.80/360.30	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Bullish sentiment and hopes of another cut in interest rates sent the All Ordinaries Index to its highest point in almost three months, up 24.9 points to 1,365.4.

TOKYO — The market was closed for a national holiday. Stocks gained for the fifth straight day Friday, fuelled by hopes of lower interest rates and growing investor confidence. The Nikkei Index ended up 191.65 points to 1,805.29.

HONG KONG — Stocks finished higher ahead of the Chinese new year holiday later this week. The Hang Seng gained 34.99 points to close at 3,394.08.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed mixed in moderate trading but the Straits Times Industrial Index rose above the key 1,300 level, helped by gains in some index-stocks. The Blue-Chip index rose 7.93 points to 1,302.03.

BOMBAY — Share prices drifted broadly lower as hopes of an early end to the Gulf war faded. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index fell 16.73 points, or 1.63 per cent, to 1,013.50.

FRANKFURT — A surge of confident buying pushed shares to a 1991 high. But dealers said orders tailed off at higher prices with operators sceptical about whether gains could last. The Dax Index closed up 20.92 at 1,488.74.

ZURICH — Shares closed sharply higher with the index ending only slightly off its year-high as a wave of new orders met a market unwilling to sell. The All-Share SPI Index closed up 21 at 972.3.

NEW YORK — Blue Chips edged up again near their session highs in early-afternoon trading as new cash continued to pour in. The Dow was up about 40 at 2,870.

TODAY AT

Cinema Tel: 677420

TOTAL RECALL



Performances: 3:30, 5:00, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

NUJUM

ROBOCOB

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

Nabila Obeld / Salah Sedani in

The Path of Fear

Arabic

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

LAMBADA



Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema Tel: 699238

PLAZA

BEACH GIRLS

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

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Lithuania urges support after independence vote

VILNIUS, USSR (AP) — Fearing a Kremlin crackdown, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis appealed Monday for greater Western support for his republic's independence.

On Saturday, 91 per cent of Lithuanian residents endorsed their government's 11-month-old independence declaration, according to preliminary results of a republic-wide referendum that the Soviet Union has declared illegal. Official tallies are due Monday night or Tuesday.

The Soviet military announced that it would begin 10 days of exercises in Lithuania and the neighbouring Baltic republics of Latvia and Estonia starting Sunday. Activists reported no sign of manoeuvres in Lithuania by Monday morning, although two armoured personnel carriers drove through Vilnius Sunday night.

The Kremlin has already moved forcibly on the Baltic independence drive, killing 21 people in Lithuania and Latvia last month as they sent in troops to enforce the military draft and seized buildings with tanks and soldiers.

Lithuanian leaders fear that Soviet forces might next storm the republic's barricaded parliament building.

Landsbergis told Portuguese

television, "if Western countries don't do something politically, then the crackdown is possible."

He said he held out little hope that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would moderate his stance toward Lithuania without Western pressure.

Bronislovas Kuzmickas, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Parliament, reported Monday morning to the legislature that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was encouraging about the poll, but offering no stronger promises of support. Kuzmickas had just returned from a visit to Washington.

Previously, the U.S. Ambassador to Moscow Jack Matlock had said the United States would expect both sides to honour the results of a referendum.

Gorbachev has declared the

Lithuanian poll invalid because

tens of thousands of Soviet soldiers

stationed in the republic were

not allowed to vote.

The Soviet president is pushing

for a national referendum on

March 17, in which citizens would

say whether they want to keep

the Soviet Union whole.

Kremlin loyalists have said

they will try to hold the March

vote in military barracks and rural

areas of Lithuania, although they

concede fewer than half of eligible

voters would turn out.

The Lithuanian government said it would not interfere with the voting to avoid creating friction.

The three Baltic republics were independent countries between the two world wars. They were forcibly annexed into the Soviet Union in 1940, and all three are now trying to break away from Kremlin control.

Meanwhile, heavy snow and ice have brought industry to a halt and caused electricity cuts at hospitals and schools in Soviet Armenia, Pravda reported Monday.

The Communist Party daily said the government in the republic bordering Turkey had ordered the temporary closure of all plants in heavy industry and other sectors not connected with production of food and other staples.

"Nearly all reserves of fuel oil and natural gas are exhausted and there is a catastrophic shortage of power," the newspaper said.

"For the moment there is not even enough heat for medical and children's institutions."

It said supplies could be improved only by construction of a new gas pipeline from central Russia through Georgia but this could not be completed until the end of the year.

Power cuts in neighbouring Georgia have forced wide sections of industry to close in recent weeks.

Winnie Mandela pleads 'not guilty'

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Winnie Mandela pleaded innocent Monday to eight charges of kidnapping and assault, but the judge adjourned the trial after prosecutors said a key witness had been kidnapped.

The case was adjourned until Tuesday when prosecutors said one of the young men allegedly assaulted by Mrs. Mandela had been abducted Sunday night. Prosecutors said they could not ask witnesses to testify if their lives were in danger.

Mrs. Mandela, the controversial wife of African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, and three co-defendants each pleaded innocent to separate counts in the Rand Supreme Court. Wearing a green dress and coat, Mrs. Mandela looked composed as she heard each of the eight charges.

"I'm not guilty," she told Judge M.S. Stegmann in a strong, calm voice.

State prosecutor Jan Swanepol then stunned the court by announcing that one of the key witnesses was missing and Methodist Church workers who were looking after him said he had been kidnapped.

The witness was not named, but was known to be one of three young men who testified at an earlier trial that they were kidnapped and assaulted by Mrs. Mandela and her bodyguards.

"I cannot expect my witnesses to come in here if their lives are in danger," Swanepol said.

Prosecutors say members of Mrs. Mandela's bodyguard unit, the Mandela United Football Club, abducted the four youths, took them to Mrs. Mandela's home in the Soweto township, and beat them for several days in December 1988.

Prosecutors allege that the bodyguards were motivated by accusations that the four had sexual relations with the Methodist minister and that the youngest of the four, Stompie Seipei, was at police spy.

Seipei, 14, was killed. The former head of Mrs. Mandela's bodyguard unit, Jerry Richardson, was convicted of murder and sentenced to death. The three youths who survived the incident testified last year at Richardson's trial that Mrs. Mandela beat them with a whip.

Swanepol, in outlining the case, said Mrs. Mandela and the co-defendants were facing criminal charges and there was no question of political persecution.

"It does not matter who the accused are. This is not a political trial as far as the state is concerned," Swanepol said.

Mrs. Mandela's lawyers read out a brief statement denying she was guilty of any criminal conduct. They said Mrs. Mandela attempted to save four youths from a white homosexual minister who was running a Methodist centre for troubled youths.

Mrs. Mandela attempted to stop homosexuality at the centre and urged various young men to seek psychiatric help. She was not home when other people arranged to bring the four there to protect them from the minister, the defence said. It said nothing of the assaults or Seipei's death.

"I did not deprive any of the complainants of their liberty of movement nor did I assault any one of them," Mrs. Mandela said in her statement.

If convicted on all charges, Mrs. Mandela's punishment could range from the death penalty to a suspended sentence.

17 killed in S.African bus ambush

PIETERMARITZBURG, South Africa (R) — At least 17 people were killed when two buses were ambushed in a black village near Pietermaritzburg, capital of South Africa's strife-torn Natal province, police said Monday.

The attacks took place Sunday evening, bringing to more than 40 the number of people killed since African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela and Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi signed a peace accord last month urging their supporters to lay down arms.

"We have 17 bodies and expect to find more. Eleven people were injured during the ambush, some of them seriously," a police spokesman said.

Witnesses said supporters of Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) were returning from a peace rally held at Sweetwaters, one of the province's troubled villages, when buses were forced to stop because of barricades in

the road.

"When the passengers alighted to remove the barricades, they were attacked with sharp instruments," a witness said.

A reporter in the area said residents of Sweetwaters and two neighbouring villages of Taylor's Halt and Elandsdorp stayed away from work to discuss the killings.

"It is very tense. There is big meeting going on. We may see some kind of retaliation which could result in more deaths," he said.

Unconfirmed reports said the attackers lined both sides of the road, firing on the buses with rifles and pistols, while stoning them.

Mandela and Buthelezi met on Jan. 29 to try to end the bloody feud between supporters of their movements.

Clashes in Natal have claimed more than 4,000 lives in the past five years. The factional strife moved to Transvaal province last

August and had killed more than 1,100 people by the end of the year.

Richard Ndlovu, an Inkatha spokesman in one of the Pietermaritzburg villages in the Maqongqo area, said factional fighting had continued in the township despite the Mandela-Buthelezi calls for peace in the province.

"The IFP leadership in the Maqongqo area are worried about the violence which has taken place despite the peace accord reached between the IFP and the leadership of the ANC," Ndlovu said.

"Inkatha members are dying in these attacks and Inkatha cannot stand by and allow its members to be killed," he said.

Since the peace accord was forged, unrest has flared sporadically in Natal townships and at Bekkersdal outside Johannesburg, where 11 people died in a week of violence.

Thai premier, Cambodian rebel leader discuss U.N. peace plan

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's premier met Prince Norodom Ranariddh of Cambodia Monday in the first of a planned series of talks aimed at reaching a consensus on a U.N. peace plan for Cambodia.

Ranariddh heads the guerrilla army loyal to his father, Cambodia's former monarch Prince Sihanouk. The Sihanoukists are one of three guerrilla groups fighting the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh.

In separate meetings scheduled with leaders of each faction this week, Premier Chatichai Choonhavan will urge greater leniency in their approach to the U.N. peace plan, said Kraisak Choonhavan, the premier's son and one of his advisers.

Chatichai will also discuss the rehabilitation of some 300,000 Cambodian refugees in Thailand, which he wants on the agenda at a future meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council.

Kraisak said.

Another Thai government spokesman, Pridiyathorn Devakula, said Chatichai proposed to Ranariddh that the council form a working group to plan the reconstruction of Cambodia.

Phnom Penh's Foreign Minister Hor Nam Hong is to arrive in Bangkok Friday to meet the Thai premier, Thai officials said.

The U.N. plan calls for the disarming of all four Cambodian armies and the extensive involvement of U.N. officials in the country's administration ahead of elections.

The Supreme National Council is supposed to delegate to the United Nations all powers needed to carry out a settlement.

Indonesia has offered to be host for a meeting of the 12-member council, which includes representatives from the government and the three guerrilla groups.

The guerrillas have agreed to

attend a meeting, although a date has not been determined.

Phnom Penh last week called for another meeting of the body and said it should consider a voluntary truce. However, it did not make clear if it had accepted Indonesia's offer.

Council members are supposed to negotiate a settlement to Cambodia's 12-year-old war but have spent most of their time squabbling over secondary issues.

The talks — which are to include representatives of the United Nations, Indonesia and France — are intended to resolve the groups' differences and allow a reconvening of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, the main forum for any settlement. France and Indonesia co-chair the conference.

Phnom Penh says it accepts most of the basic points of the U.N. peace plan, but wants further discussions on the extent of the U.N. role.

Aquino testifies in libel trial

MANILA (AP) — President Corason Aquino testified in a libel trial Monday that a newspaper columnist saying she "hid under her bed" during a coup attempt damaged her credibility as leader of the Philippines Armed Forces.

Mrs. Aquino, the first Philippine president to testify in a trial, said her administration supported press freedom but added that "along with the freedom comes a very serious responsibility" for truth.

But the trial could have an

impact both on Mrs. Aquino's public image and press freedom in the Philippines. There have been news reports that some advisers had told Mrs. Aquino to drop the case because she risks appearing petty and vindictive.

The trial began in February 1990 and has continued off and on ever since. Monday was the first and only day that Mrs. Aquino, who is the last prosecution witness, gave testimony. It is not known when the trial will end.

Mrs. Aquino filed charges against Luis Beltran, publisher Max Soliven and three other executives of the Philippine Star on Oct. 12, 1987 after Beltran wrote that she "hid under her bed while firing was going on, perhaps the first commander-in-chief of the armed forces to have to do so."

Beltran, who now writes for another newspaper, later apologised and said he did not mean for the comments to be taken literally. He could be punished by four years imprisonment if convicted.

Trial of top Chinese dissident begins

PEKING (R) — China Monday began the trial of one of the alleged "black hands" behind 1989's pro-democracy demonstrations and unrest, accusing him of the capital charge of plotting to overthrow the government.

A notice outside Peking People's Intermediate Court said initial proceedings against economist Chen Ziming, 37, began at 8:30 A.M. (0030 GMT), witnesses said.

The area around the court was sealed off by uniformed and plainclothes police, and Western reporters were told to leave.

The charge of plotting to overthrow the government carries a minimum sentence of 10 years in jail and could be punished by

death.

Chen is also charged with issuing counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement, the notice said.

The former director of a private research institute with links to reformist government officials, Chen has been a pro-democracy campaigner from the early days of the movement in 1976.

He and fellow economist Wang Jintao headed a list of seven intellectuals wanted by police after army tanks and guns crushed the pro-democracy unrest on June 4, 1989.

Chen's friends said the activist began a hunger strike last week to gain more time to organise his defence.

They said he began refusing food Thursday, and stripped to his underwear despite freezing mid-winter temperatures as part of his protest.

Chen is the third of four "black hands" China's Communist authorities are focusing on in the current phase of trials.

University lecturer Chen Xiaoping and former graduate student Liu Gang went on trial earlier this month on charges of plotting to overthrow the government.

Dissidents expect stern punishment for them.

Wang, 32, is believed to be ill with hepatitis and will probably stand trial on the same charges Tuesday, Chen's friends said.

Church leaders brand TV Evangelists heretics

CANBERRA — American television Evangelists were branded heretics Monday by delegates at the seventh assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC).

"I have denounced the use of television to domesticate people with the Gospel that has very little to do with the Gospel of Jesus Christ," Rene Padilla, a Baptist minister from Argentina, told reporters.

"I do not agree with it. I think it is heretical,"

American television Evangelists were commercialising religion, according to Walter Arnold, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany and a member of the WCC Central Committee.

"We on the continent are trying to nourish different ways of pushing the Gospel through the media because I am of the opinion those (U.S.) programmes are highly commercialised," Arnold said.

"We should be very careful about mixing the Gospel with those modern forms of commercialism. I think the church must look for different terms of pre-

senting the Gospel through the media."

Both agreed the religious differences between Evangelical Christians and Ecumenicals were narrowing.

Padilla said the stereotypical Evangelist was a right-wing capitalist who interpreted the Bible literally. The stereotype of an Ecumenical was a leftist concerned with social issues.

But he said most people no longer fell into such rigid categories.

"Now you don't find harsh fighting between people who are affiliated with the world of Evangelism or the (Ecumenical) leaders of the World Council of Churches," said Arnold.

"I think the understanding has grown and instead of pure opposition you find a lot of dialogue going on, which I appreciate very highly."

Padilla said: "We must accept there is a pluralism in the Christian world and that is why we must dialogue."

The World Council of Churches, which meets every seven years, represents 316 churches but not Roman Catholics. The

seventh assembly will run until Feb. 20.

Meanwhile, a president of the World Council of Churches (WCC) accused members of sexism Monday and said a current assembly of the council in Canberra should examine its attitudes to women.

"You will notice the number of women delegates at this assembly will still not reach the 40 per cent quota we set in Vancouver (Canada, at the last assembly)," Reverend Lois Wilson of the United Church of Canada told a news conference.

"It is mainly because the member churches continue to send male delegates," she said.

Wilson said women did two-thirds of the world's work and received a 10th of the wages of men.

"Now that says to me a structural injustice which has to be addressed by the Christian Community," she said.

So, it would hope that our major emphasis would be on those kinds of inequities, as well as on participation in this assembly,"

COLUMN

Lisa Stansfield, Elton John win top awards

LONDON (AP) — Lisa Stansfield, Elton John, Sinead O'Connor and Michael Hutchence captured the top honours at the annual Brit Awards. Stansfield and John were named best British female and male pop stars at the awards ceremony in the Dominion Theatre Sunday night.

Hutchence, of the Australian group Inxs and O'Connor, an Irish singer-songwriter, were named best international male and female stars at the ceremony.

O'Connor, who has said she did not want the award, did not attend. The shaven-headed singer refused to have the U.S. national anthem played during a recent U.S. appearance. In an apparent rebuke Sunday, the Brit Awards showed the audience a video of U.S. singer Whitney Houston singing The Star Spangled Banner as "a tribute to Sinead." Inxs picked up the best international group award.

George Michael's Listen Without Prejudice was named best British album of the year, and Chris Thomas best producer. Accepting his award, an emotional Michael dedicated the album to former record company executive Ronnie Fisher who died at the end of last year.

McHammer was named best television newcomer. Best television soundtrack was Twin Peaks, and Betty Boo was best British newcomer.

Rio Carnival blends satire with spectacle

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Rio de Janeiro's spectacular carnival parades lived up to their reputation for inventive satire Sunday with dancers representing the Gulf war, the destruction of the Amazon rainforest and Brazil's crippling social problems. As the sun went down in the subtropical sky, the first of the eight samba schools to parade massed on the main avenue outside the Sambadrome. The concrete stadium is where the samba schools enjoy their fleeting moment of glory, a one-hour march past the crowds and a brief moment when they decide their fate. A deafening hail of fireworks heralded the arrival of Academico do Grande Rio, the first of the 1991 contenders. The school's 3,000 dancers chose to satirise the theme of war. The band carried a huge glittering silver dragon spouting twin missiles from its belly, followed by ranks of camouflaged warriors. Thousands of Rio's residents crammed the Sambadrome's concrete stands to look on as the reality of the Gulf war and 20 per cent a month inflation were swept aside in the city's annual orgy of colour, sound and glitter.

President Lincoln still playing a key role

NEW YORK (R) — Was the tall and gangling Abraham Lincoln already at death's door when his assassin shot him down in a Washington theatre almost 126 years ago? Some scientists have always thought so. And they may finally get the chance to prove it. The National Museum of Health and Medicine in Washington has appointed a panel to study the ethical and technical feasibility of examining samples of the late president's hair, bone and blood to see if genetic material remains, the New York Times reported.

When John Wilkes Booth killed Lincoln on April 14, 1865, the president was 56 and was a few months into his second term. Some medical experts believe he was a sufferer from an inherited disease called Marfan syndrome, which could have taken his life at any time, even if the bullet hadn't. People with Marfan syndrome — 40,000 Americans are said to have it today — often grow tall and gangly like Lincoln with unusually long limbs and fingers like the president. Excretion can cause the heart's main artery to burst suddenly. The museum committee will examine samples of Lincoln's hair, bone and blood from its collection to see if they still contain the genetic substance, DNA. If so, it could then be cloned to produce sufficient quantities of Lincoln's genetic material for research. Scientists believe they could use the Lincoln material — if it is proved that he did have Marfan syndrome — to check for genetic defects in others. Dr. Victor McKusick, professor of medical genetics at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University, and an expert on Marfan syndrome, has agreed to be chairman of the eight-member panel.

Tabloids stoke controversy over British royals' role

LONDON (R) — Britain's tabloid newspapers Monday stoked a controversy over the royal family's role in the Gulf war, with one declaring that the monarchy was facing its biggest crisis in 50 years.

"Queen in crisis," blared a banner headline in the paper.

"Queen fires a Patriot — she defends royals after Gulf war slur," screamed the Sun.

The furor erupted after the Sunday Times, one of Britain's most respected newspapers, launched a blistering attack on the royal family's behaviour since Iraq occupied Kuwait last August, accusing some members of "upper-class decadence and insensitivity."

Today, in its front-page story, said Queen Elizabeth "is today facing the biggest royal crisis since the abdication more than 50 years ago." King Edward VIII was forced to give up the throne in 1936 to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

The Sun quoted the queen as

saying: "All members of the royal family are behind British forces every inch of the way."

It did not say when or where she made the remark and Buckingham Palace was not immediately available to comment.

The Sunday Times editorial, in a scathing reference to the queen's heir, Prince Charles, and her husband, Prince Philip, said they had taken up arms "but only to go hunting birds."

It lambasted Prince Andrew for taking time off from his Royal Navy duties to play golf in Spain and criticised his wife, the Duchess of York, for going skiing last month "as the country stood on the brink of war and ... playing with her gang, very publicly, at a high-spirited dinner in a London restaurant."

Buckingham Palace, in a rare public response to a newspaper article, issued a statement defending the royal family's behaviour and setting out a long list of Gulf-related royal engagements.

U.K.'s homeless live on streets during snowstorms

LONDON (R) — Hundreds, possibly thousands, of people are sleeping on the streets of London during the harshest snowstorms to sweep the British capital in years.

A blanket-covered form lies in the freezing doorway of a smart office building in central London. A pair of shoes peeps out, but there is no sign of life.

In a park nearby, dozens of pigeons and gulls squawk over crumbs in the snow, the remains of a food hand-out given to men forced to live in an open bandstand strewn with blankets, cigarettes, butts and empty bottles.

Freezing temperatures and up to a foot (0.3 of a metre) of snow in London have focused attention on the plight of the homeless in Britain's big cities. For those on the streets, government promises of an extra 730 hostel beds are not enough.

"It's just a token gesture," said Kenneth Davis, rummaging through old clothes heaped around the bandstand in Lincoln's Inn Fields. A charity group had brought the clothes the night before but most of them were for women.

"A couple of weeks ago it was really cold, colder than now, but there was no snow so there wasn't much response," said Davis, who has been without a home for 18 months.

"Now it takes a couple of hours to warm up but I slept quite a bit last night, the trouble is when you get up there's nowhere to go."

The government says London has 1,046 homeless people but shelter, a housing charity, puts the figure at more than 3,000, saying official figures do not include outer London. It also says 5,000 people in the rest of Britain have no homes.

Some people blame the government for the rise in the number of homeless, saying low public spending has led to an acute shortage of cheap housing. The government says public housing is the responsibility of local authorities.

"The government has not given

a single penny outside London and has simply passed the buck to local authorities without offering any support," said shelter's assistant director, Simon Keyes.

"If we can't even provide help in an emergency, what chance have we got of solving the appalling problem of homelessness that exists for the other 360 days a year?"

Homelessness has increased dramatically in Britain since Margaret Thatcher was elected to power in 1979 at the head of a conservative government.

Critics accused Thatcher of uncaring social policies and blamed her for the increasing numbers of young people sleeping in doorways of London's most exclusive shopping streets, in parks or under bridges, often protected only by cardboard.

Her conservative successor, Prime Minister John Major, on taking office last year, pledged that the government would develop "new and more effective ways of getting rough sleepers off the streets."

But, on a central London street Sunday, two homeless men were sheltering in a theatre entrance. Two more had turned the doorway of a tax office into a retreat from the icy pavement. Neither space will be available on a weekday.

"I have to clear up and move off by seven in the morning," said an Irishman camped outside the tax office. "But the manager's really nice, he gave me bacon and egg the other day."

Malcolm Norbury, the Irishman's doorman for the past few weeks, told how personal tragedy forced him onto the streets.

"In the space of five months I lost my son in a hit-and-run accident, my mother and my nephew. It drove me mad. I took to the bottle and got into debt," he said.

"Eventually I was forced out of my council (local authority) home."

Weather forecasters predict

freezing temperatures will continue

for several days.

Hollywood to announce Oscar nominations Wednesday

LOS ANGELES (R) — Hollywood, reflecting an austere wartime mood, will announce its nominations for this year's Oscar awards Wednesday, shying away from spectacular budget blockbusters and multi-million dollar starring roles.

Films such as Dances With Wolves, starring Kevin Costner, Awakenings with Robin Williams and Robert De Niro, and director Martin Scorsese's Goodfellas are being touted by film critics and studios as Oscar winners.